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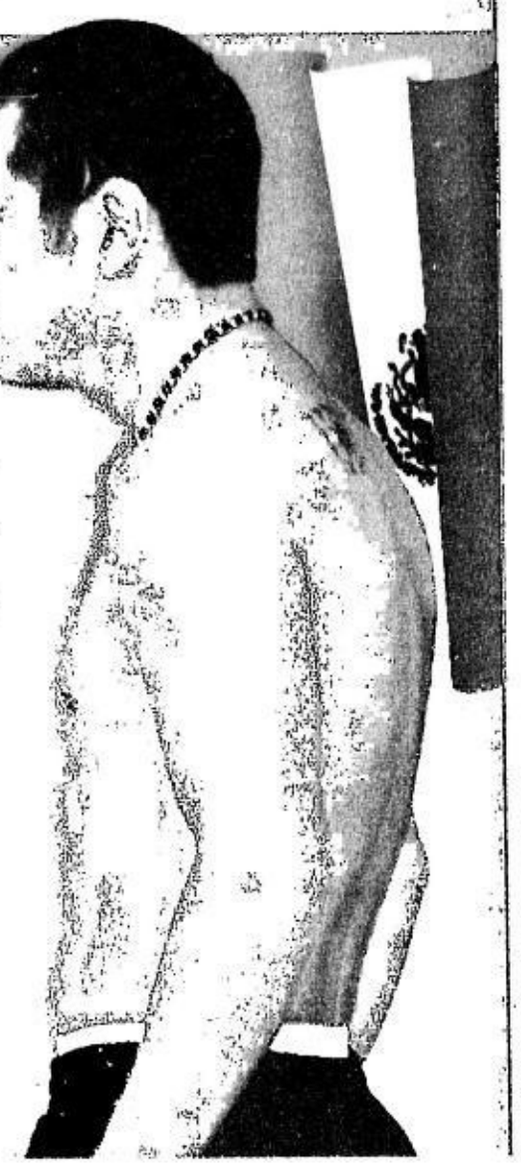


How to sing nat'l anthem

By Eliza Victoria
Inquirer Research

SOON AFTER MANNY PACquiao demolished Mexican legend Erik Morales in three rounds in their November 2006 fight in Las Vegas, councilors of Davao City raised a howl over Sarah Geronimo's rendition of the national anthem just before the fight began.

Councilor Nilo Abellera said Geronimo's slow, "kundiman-like" interpretation was a bastardization of the national song. He filed a resolution reminding the people of Davao how the anthem should be sung.

What is the proper way of singing the anthem?

According to Ambeth Ocampo, chair of the National Histor-

HOW TO/ A9

Pacquiao going for KO

Gaunt and drained, RP hero seeks repeat over vengeful Barrera

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS—A GAUNT, ghostly figure officially identified as Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines was certified ready on Friday (Saturday in Manila) for his monumental rematch with muscular Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera at the Events Center of the Mandalay Bay Hotel here.

Based on the displayed physical discrepancy, the bout would've had been disallowed if it were to be promptly fought after yesterday's weigh-in.

The two warriors square off today for the second time in an anticipated classic made doubly suspenseful following the confirmation of a Pacquiao weight problem.

Fight time is 9 p.m. Saturday here (Sunday 12 noon Sunday in Manila).

"Knockout!" blurted Pacquiao trainer Freddie Roach when asked for his final battle order after Friday's dramatic weigh-in.

That means the 28-year-old Pacquiao, who hardly looked his robust, blazing self on top of the stage yesterday, will have to push, carry out sustained offensive for every minute of each round as specified in the original battle plan laid up by Roach.

"He's drawn, drained, but he will be OK, he can do it," an unusually glum Roach told the INQUIRER.

Pacquiao, (44-3-2, with 35 KOs) remains the hot favorite to retain his WBC International

PACQUIAO / A9

Wanted: Volunteers to protect witnesses

By Volt Contreras

AS IT REVS UP FOR THE IMplementation of new measures against extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances, the Supreme Court is now calling on individuals or groups who can help protect vulnerable witnesses to these largely unsolved political crimes.

"We need groups to volunteer as sanctuaries for witnesses," Associate Justice Adolfo Azcuna said last week at a forum where he expounded on the recently approved rules for the writ of amparo, a mechanism of redress adopted by the high court to expand its role as defender of civil liberties.

Safe havens for witnesses may be extended by nongovernment or religious organizations, civic associations or institutions, and even "corporations," Azcuna said on Thursday in a forum at the University of the Philippines' Law Center in Diliman, Quezon City.

He also mentioned "embassies," but later clarified in an

WANTED/ A4

DALI WAS ONLY No. 2 to Vicente Alvarez Dizon who won first prize for his painting, "After the Day's Toil" at the International Competition of Contemporary Art of 79 nations at the Golden Gate Exposition in 1939. The French entry by Utrillo didn't even make it. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Missing Filipino masterpiece found at last

By Josie Dizon Henson
Contributor

AFTER A DECADES-LONG SEARCH, THE family of Vicente Alvarez Dizon has located his painting that won first place at an international competition in 1939 which included the works of Salvador Dali and Maurice Utrillo.

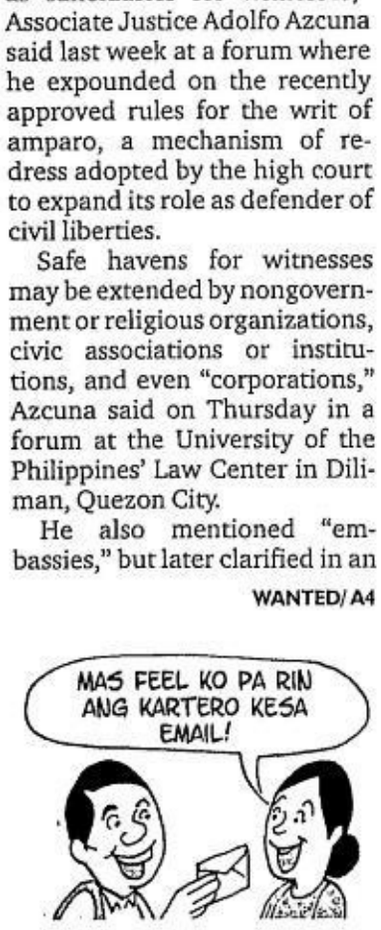
The late Dizon's masterpiece, "After the Day's Toil," which was last seen by the family in 1952 when it was transported to the country for the Philippine International Fair, is in the possession of Dr. Rogelio Pine, a Filipino cardiologist based in New Jersey.

Pine bought it in 1980 from Daniel Grossman of the Grossman Gallery, who in turn bought it from IBM New York when the company unloaded a number of paintings in the late 1970s.

Dizon, of the University of the Philippines' then School of Fine Arts, painted "After the Day's Toil" in 1936 as a graduation thesis during postgraduate scholarship studies at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

When he returned home, he settled in Malate, Manila, and continued to lecture

MISSING FILIPINO/ A11



In Internet age, postman gives job relevance, a heart

By TJ Burgonio

DESPITE HIS NAME, HE IS NO potato patch mailman.

Floro "Pol" Camote is a modern-day postman who continues to make his job relevant in the age of the Internet.

Camote, a letter-carrier of the

IN INTERNET / A10

World watching Burma; Asian rallies kick off int'l day of protest

CITIES ACROSS ASIA AND EUROPE launched a day of global protests against Burma's (Myanmar's) junta Saturday, after the military regime admitted detaining hundreds of Buddhist monks when troops turned their guns on prodemocracy demonstrators last week.

Hoping to send Burma's ruling military generals a message that "the world is still watching," rights group Amnesty International organized marches in more than two dozen Asian, European and North American cities.

Celebrities added their voice, with actor Jim Carrey holding a New York news conference to call for UN Security Council action. Singer Damien Rice planned to perform a tribute to detained democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi at an evening concert in London.

As rallies in London began, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown called for new European Union sanctions against the junta, including a ban on future investments in the country.

"The anger of the world has been expressed about the outrages that have taken place against the people of Burma," Brown said during a televised meeting with Buddhist monks gathered in his 10 Downing Street Office.

In London, thousands joined monks as they scattered petals into the Thames from Westminster Bridge in solidarity with Burmese protesters. The gesture will be the climax of a rally which will take demonstrators from south London to Trafalgar Square.

Sixty Nobel laureates added their voices to the global outcry over the Burma crisis, saying they were "outraged" by the "ongoing violent repression" of

WORLD/ A7

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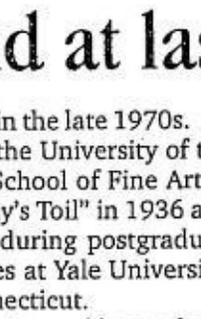
IN HER OWN FASHION: She's proud of her dad, Frank Chavez, but designer Ingrid says her passion lies elsewhere
SUNDAY MAGAZINE

SAME DIFFERENCE: Model Isabelle Diaz-Daza has her mom's good looks and some of her views but the 2 are distinct individual products of their time
SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Palace hand behind last-minute filing of impeach complaint vs GMA by lawyer Roel Pulido, say opposition solons
NEWS / A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2007

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Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent rains over Mindoro and Northern Palawan which may trigger flashfloods or landslides. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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(In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening

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'Impeach to immunize' seen

Opposition suspects Palace hand in new oust-GMA move

By Norman Bordadora

OPPOSITION HOUSE MEMBERS SEE THE IMpeachment complaint filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo late Friday as a Malacañang ploy to "immunize" the President for a year from a more substantial impeachment complaint.

They claimed that people close to Malacañang had sought their signatures and endorsement for the complaint filed by lawyer Roel Pulido late Friday.

This was denied by Pulido who said there was only one copy of the complaint and he was the only one holding that copy.

"How can they solicit signatures for my complaint when the only copy of my complaint is with me?" said Pulido, the lawyer of a group of junior officers charged with involvement in the failed July 2003 coup, also known as the Oakwood mutiny.

The Pulido filing is the first impeachment complaint filed against the President this year and also the first based on her possible involvement in the controversial $329-million national broadband network (NBN) contract with the Chinese-based ZTE Corp.

No need to immunize

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez said that as the House minority sees it, there is a need to shield the President from a possible impeachment move as House members loyal to Speaker Jose de Venecia could retaliate with impeachment proceedings against Ms Arroyo if her allies move to oust the Speaker.

Rumors of De Venecia being ousted have persisted after his son and namesake accused the President's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, of warning him to stay out of the NBN project.

"The sense of the House minority is that this could be a plot to immunize the President from an impeachment complaint for one year," Rodriguez said, adding that in that time Ms Arroyo's allies could then move against the Speaker.

Rodriguez said a Malacañang official had approached him in the House last Friday asking him to endorse Pulido's complaint.

Another minority congressman who spoke on condition of anonymity said a person from the President's party, the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), also asked him to endorse the Pulido complaint.

Waste of time

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the filing of yet another impeachment complaint against the President was a "waste of the people's time and money."

"We are confident that the people will support continuity and reform, instead of dabbling in a lost cause."

Meeting in China

Pulido based his complaint against Ms Arroyo on the affidavit of the Speaker's son, Jose de Venecia III, and the testimony at the Senate hearing into the NBN deal of Romulo Neri, the former head of the National and Economic Development Authority.

De Venecia III said that Ms Arroyo had met with the Speaker and resigned Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos in China to discuss the NBN deal with China's ZTE Corp.

Neri testified he told the President of Abalos' attempt to bribe him to approve the ZTE proposal.

Pulido said it was betrayal of public trust—a ground for impeachment.

Villafuerte: Don't look at me

KAMPI CHAIR AND DE VENECIA rival Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte yesterday denied that he had anything to do with Rep. Edgar San Luis' endorsement of Pulido's alleged weak complaint.

He again reiterated earlier remarks that he is not in any way involved in attempts to unseat De Venecia.

"I am appalled by irresponsible and totally baseless stories linking me to alleged 'Oust JDV' plots in the House of Representatives," Villafuerte said.

"I have been sick in the past week and my doctors have imposed total bed rest. Simply, I have unwillingly put myself out of circulation yet media reports ascribing my involvement to such rumors and conspiracy stories keep on coming out," he added.

Villafuerte said that while San Luis was a Kampi member, "(he) is not my henchman or underling or whatever.

"Media stories linking his actions to me are blatant lies and bereft of any basis at all. It is best that media interview or get the real story from Congressman San Luis," Villafuerte said.

"Finally, whether ill or physically fit, I do not find it worth a second of my time to engage in moves to unseat Speaker De Venecia," he added.

Villafuerte said he is now more concerned with his "principal advocacy" of reforms in the House of Representatives "as proven by my recent demand for full disclosure of all House monies by the Committee on Accounts which was unanimously approved by the plenary in session."

ASIAN-AMERICANS picket the headquarters of **ABC TV** network to protest the racial remarks made on its TV series "Desperate Housewives" Oct. 5. SONNY SAMPAYAN/CONTRIBUTOR

Boycott ABC, Disney, Fil-Am groups urge

By Nimfa U. Rueda

LOS ANGELES—FILIPINO-AMERICAN groups in the United States have called for a boycott of the ABC television network and its parent company, Walt Disney, after a top network executive said a broadcast apology for the perceived racial slur on the "Desperate Housewives" show was unlikely.

"I don't think they [ABC] are taking us seriously," Rico Foz, spokesperson for the National Alliance for Filipino Concerns (Nafcon), said yesterday following a meeting that he and several other Filipino-American community leaders had in New York City with Robert Mendez, the network's senior vice president for diversity and talent development.

Foz said they had asked ABC to broadcast a public apology during the show's next episode, and "Mendez told us, 'It's going to be tough.'"

A broadcast apology was one of the demands presented to Mendez at the hour-long meeting that was followed by a protest rally in front of the ABC studios in New York City.

More than a hundred protesters denounced the remark made in a recent episode by the character played by Teri Hatcher maligning Filipino health professionals.

Foz said they also demanded a cultural sensitivity training for network staff, more shows depicting Filipinos and other minority groups as "prominent, positive role models," and support for Filipino-American projects that will strengthen diversity awareness.

Mendez said he will discuss these demands with the network management, he said.

One of the speakers at the protest rally was New York City council member John Liu, the first Asian-American to be elected to citywide office in New York. Liu called on other minority groups to support the groups' demands.

In California, a Fil-Am council member of Walnut, a Los Angeles county suburb, also threw his support behind the Fil-Am groups and said all minority groups should come together to combat racism. "We don't want this to happen to any community," said Tony Cartagena, who has served as city mayor for two terms.

Mining exec explains killing

By Jerome Aning

THE TOP OFFICIAL OF SIBUYAN NICKEL Properties Development Corp. (SNPDC) yesterday said its personnel were the "victims" in the Wednesday killing of an antimining activist in San Fernando, Sibuyan Island.

SNPDC president Jose Miguel Cabarrus deplored the shooting of municipal councilor Armin Marin, but said: "Our personnel were not the aggressors. They were not the instigators either. Rather, they were the victims."

Marin died after reportedly being shot by SNPDC security officer Mario Kingo in a confrontation during an antimining demonstration led by the councilor and a foreigner named Jennie Chan.

Cabarrus assailed environment groups and the media for blaming SNPDC for Marin's "murder," saying it was the councilor who started the altercation with Kinko.

"Is it fair to call it a murder when it's not a premeditated act? He (Kingo) was just defending himself, and the police report bears us out," Cabarrus told the INQUIRER.

He said he sympathized with Marin's kin and understood their anger toward SNPDC. "It's a tragedy that never should have happened," he added.

Cabarrus said Marin's group of about 100 protesters was not even demonstrating against SNPDC but against another mining firm, Filipinas Top Rock Mines.

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Bedol to be charged with poll sabotage

By Dona Pazzibugan

FORMER MAGUINDANAO ELECTION supervisor Lintang Bedol would soon be charged with electoral sabotage for losing the municipal election results in the province during the May senatorial elections.

Resurreccion Borra, who took over as acting Comelec chair following Benjamin Abalos Sr.'s resignation, told a Senate budget hearing last week that the poll body would pursue filing criminal charges against Bedol.

Borra and Commissioners Nicodemo Ferrer, Florentino Tuason and Romeo Brawner appeared before Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, chair of the Senate finance committee and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, to appeal for no further cuts to the Comelec's proposed P4.3 billion-budget for next year.

Comelec had originally asked for an P8.6 billion-budget for 2008, but Malacañang cut this in half to P4.3 billion as the final proposal to be submitted to Congress.

This includes the proposed P267-million budget for the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) election in 2008.

Borra mentioned Bedol's case when questioned what the Comelec has done against erring election officers.

"He has a pending case on electoral sabotage. The investigation is ongoing for criminal prosecution," said Borra, adding that the result of the preliminary investigation would be released "soon."

The Comelec under Abalos had come under fire from poll watchdog groups for the poll body's kid glove treatment of Bedol, who failed to produce the municipal certificates of canvass of the senatorial elections from Maguindanao to the Comelec office in Manila. .

Bedol was eventually cited for indirect contempt for snubbing Comelec hearings and was sentenced to six months in jail and fined P1,000. But he spent only one night at the Comelec's law department before he was released on a P15,000 bail.

Opposition senatorial candidate Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III filed an electoral protest before the Senate Electoral Tribunal against administration candidate Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, mainly contesting the inclusion of the Maguindanao votes.

The Comelec observed that Maguindanao produced "statistically improbable" results since 19 out of 37 senatorial candidates got zero votes while the administration Team Unity slate registered a landslide victory.

After the recanvassing of the results from Maguindanao and a handful of other municipalities in the ARMM, Zubiri dislodged Pimentel from the 12th slot.

In an interview after the hearing, Borra said the preliminary investigation report recommending the filing of electoral sabotage charges against Bedol would be out soon.

He said the Comelec's law department would submit the report to Ferrer, who was put in charge of the Maguindanao recanvassing (after Commissioner Rene Sarmiento begged off for health reasons).

Borra said Ferrer would draft the ruling for the filing of an electoral sabotage case against Bedol for "electoral offenses, fraud, anomalies and infidelity in the custody of election documents."

Borra refused to comment on how the finding on Bedol's culpability would affect Pimentel's electoral protest.

BEDOL ERIK ARAZAS

ABALOS REM ZAMORA

It's done: Abalos is out of Comelec

THE DOUBTS ABOUT WHETHER ITS BE-leaguered chair Benjamin Abalos has really resigned or is merely on terminal leave are unfounded, according to the Commission on Elections.

Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez clarified that Abalos did submit a formal resignation to the Comelec en banc and that President Macapagal-Arroyo has been informed of it.

Jimenez said Abalos has effectively cut his ties with the election body so the suspicions were baseless.

He said the Comelec was an independent commission which was not answerable to the President.

"So as far as [Abalos] is concerned, he informed the Comelec en banc and the en banc informed the President. The Comelec submitted this resignation to the President but only for information and not for approval," Jimenez said.

Abalos himself is puzzled about the suspicions concerning his resignation after he was accused of offering bribes and brokering the contract for the government's national broadband network (NBN) project in behalf of the Chinese-based ZTE Corp.

"I thought they wanted me out? Now, they want me in again? It is not my ouster they are after but to make use of the situation to get publicity for themselves," said Abalos in a mixture of English and Filipino.

Election lawyer Sixto Brillantes Jr. agrees with Abalos and the Comelec that the resignation does not need the President's approval.

Brillantes said that officials of constitutional commissions like the Comelec, the Civil Service Commission and the Commission on Audit, once confirmed by Congress, do not need to submit their resignations to anybody since they are independent commissions.

"Abalos is correct when he said that 'I resign effective immediately and I don't have to submit it to anybody.' He's deemed resigned as soon as he said it because he doesn't have to submit it to anyone," said Brillantes.

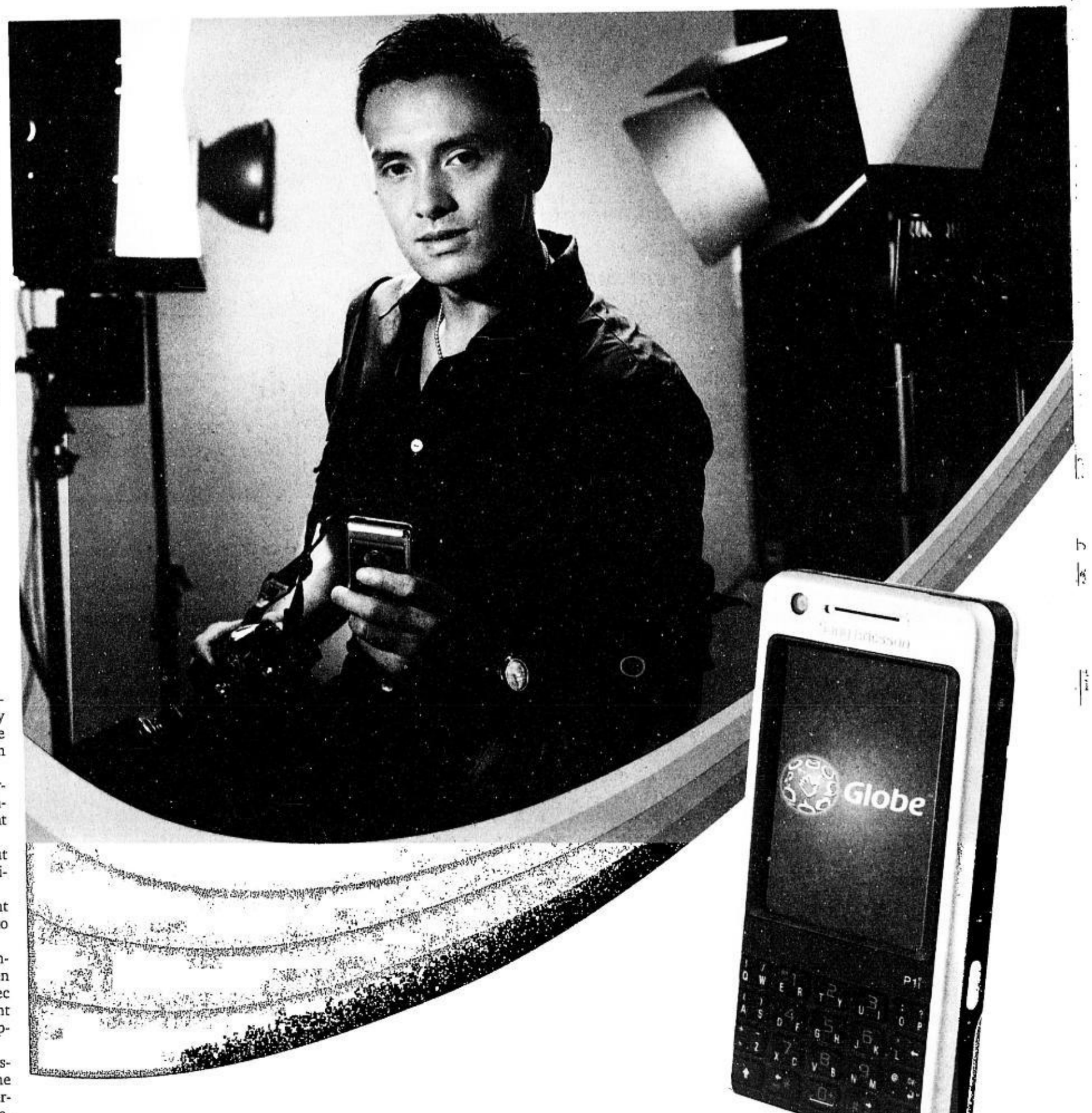
He said that a constitutional official, once appointed and confirmed by Congress, works independently even from the President.

Last week, a former senator, Francisco S. Tatad, said that Abalos' resignation was bogus and thus, the impeachment case against him can still be pursued.

Tatad said Abalos remains an impeachable official unless his formal resignation is accepted by the appointing authority, meaning the President.

Tatad, who chairs the Philippine Democratic Caucus and the Citizens vs Corruption Task Force, cited a statement of presidential legal counsel Sergio Apostol that Abalos was only on terminal leave until he retires on Feb. 8, 2008.

Commissioner Resurreccion Borra now heads the Comelec as the acting chair following an informal turnover at the Comelec last Tuesday. *Beverly T. Natividad*



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Wanted: Volunteers to protect witnesses...

From page A1

interview that the Supreme Court might have to study the international implications of including foreign posts among the possible providers of sanctuaries.

Witness Protection Program

Azcuna also explained to the INQUIRER that the refuge being considered under the amparo rules was separate from—and was not meant to supplant or offer alternatives to—the Witness Protection Program of the Department of Justice.

That program has "a specific coverage" of sheltering witnesses in criminal cases that are already pending in court, he said.

Whereas the amparo rules are particularly concerned about witnesses (including their relations whose lives may also be in danger) who may need protection well before the filing of criminal cases, Azcuna said.

The justice was referring to the provision that states: "The Supreme Court shall accredit the persons and private institutions that shall extend temporary protection to the petitioner [for the writ of amparo] or the aggrieved party and any member of the immediate family, in accordance with guidelines which [the court] shall issue."

The guidelines—such as the length or nature of protection that can be given to witnesses by the accredited groups—are still being studied by the high court, he said.

Willing financier

Azcuna also told the gathering at UP that an international foundation was "willing to fund" the operations of the judiciary in relation to the writ of amparo.

He made the disclosure as he remarked that the judiciary "only gets less than one percent of the national budget" each year.

Azcuna declined to tell the INQUIRER the name of the foundation that had come forward, saying he was not at liberty to do so at the moment and that the tribunal had also yet to study the offer.

Considered unprecedented in the Philippine legal system, the amparo rules were approved by the Supreme Court on Sept. 26 and were scheduled to take effect on the United Nations' 62nd anniversary on Oct. 24.

The writ of amparo, as contemplated by the high court, will remove from government authorities the defense of denial, oblige them to take action to solve such killings and disappearances, and hold them accountable.

The issuance of the writ was among the measures discussed in the Supreme Court-led multisectoral summit in July to address the unabated killings and disappearances of journalists and leftist activists.

Also against threats

The Philippines' writ of amparo is broader in scope than its counterparts in other countries.

"It protects not only against actual violations but also against threats of violations of rights, [and] covers not only unlawful acts or omissions of public officials or employees, but also that of private individuals or entities," the high court earlier said.

Under the rules, a temporary protection order (TPO) may be issued to protect the aggrieved party or his/her family in a government agency or private institution. If the petitioner is an institution, the TPO will cover its officers.

An inspection order may be issued by a judge to scrutinize a property or any relevant object. But such an order may be opposed on grounds of national security or the privileged nature of the information, and the judge will have to conduct a hearing to determine the merits of the opposition.

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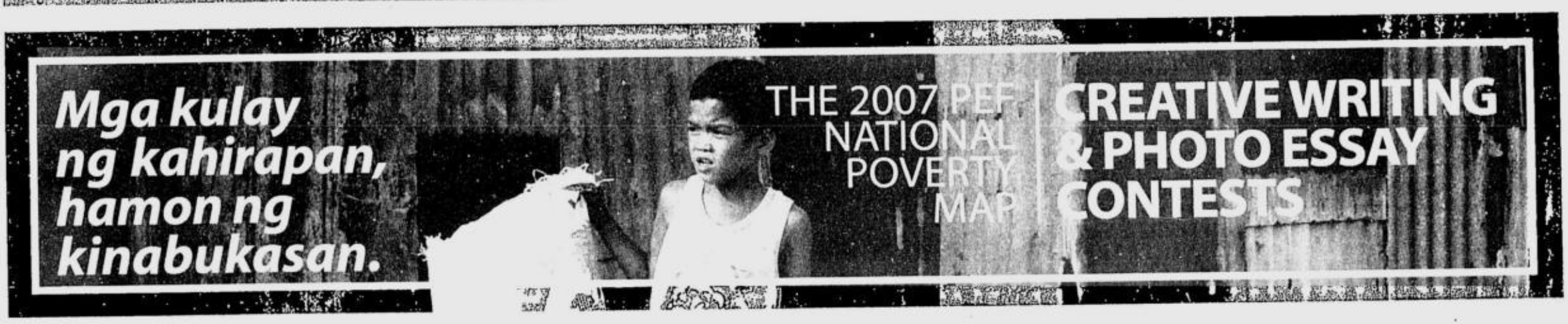

Poverty is a challenge every Filipino faces. Poverty is seen daily. Many work to eradicate poverty. It's time we tell our stories, and the stories of many others. **Join the 2007 Peace and Equity Foudation (PEF) Poverty Map Creative Writing and Photo Essay Contests.**

ABOUT PEF

The Peace Equity Access for Community Empowerment Foundation, Inc. (or Peace and Equity Foundation, PEF) is a non-stock, non-profit organization founded in October 2001 to empower the poor and marginalized communities in Philippine society.

PEF works in partnership with civil society organizations such as people's organizations, cooperatives, faith-based groups, non-government organizations, and similar entities that serve the struggling households in the poorest communities.

ABOUT THE PEF POVERTY MAP CONTESTS

The Peace and Equity Foundation's (PEF) National Poverty Maps is a guide in providing meaningful interventions and partnerships to help poor communities.

The first ever PEF National Poverty Map in the country was done in 2003, from which 28 priority provinces were identified. To date, 18 of the 29 provinces (including NCR) have been mapped and the recently updated 2007 PEF National Poverty Map will be launched to the public in December.

To mark this milestone, PEF will conduct the *2007 PEF Poverty Map Creative Writing and Photo Essay Contests* in line with the 2007 Social Development Week celebrations in December at the Glorietta Activity Center, Makati City.

The contests are aimed to create awareness and educate the youth on the country's poverty situation. Through creative writing and photography, the youth are given the opportunity to express their learning and appreciation of the prevalence of poverty in the country, as described in the National Poverty Map. Their works will then be used to generate more interest in PEF's poverty reduction programs.

The following are the PEF Priority Provinces:

LUZON: Cagayan, Quezon, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Albay, Sorsogon, Masbate, Romblon, Marinduque, Palawan, Mindoro Oriental, NCR
VISAYAS: Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Western Samar, Negros Occidental, Oriental Negros, Bohol, Biliran
MINDANAO: Sarangani, Maguindanao, Cotabato, Lanao del Sur, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga Sibugay, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi

ELIGIBILITY

1) The contests are open to all Filipino citizens ages 18 to 25 years old enrolled in any Higher Education Institution.
2) Collaboration between and among 2 or more people is not allowed.
3) Employees, officers, members of the Board of Trustees and the General Assembly of PEF including their spouses, children and relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are not allowed to compete.

CONTEST CATEGORIES

The 2007 PEF National Poverty Map Contests will be conducted in two categories:
1) Creative Writing Contest
2) Photo Essay Contest

The electronic format of the National Poverty Map and entry forms are available in selected colleges and universities and at PEF area offices and partner organizations nationwide, online at **www.pef.ph** and at the PEF 2007 National Poverty Map Contests Secretariat.

CONTEST THEME

Poverty in the Philippines comes in many faces— faces of sadness, despair, fear, anxiety and perhaps anger for the pain and suffering that people go through. But through the cooperation of community members and with the active involvement of stakeholders, these dull images could be filled with color and life. As the poverty situation in our country is a story filled with the stark contrasts of colors, we face the challenge of creating new faces of hope, excitement, optimism and determination to fulfill the promise of a better and brighter tomorrow. Hence the theme, ***"Mga Kulay ng Kahirapan, Hamon ng Kinabukasan"***

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE ENTRIES

1) **For Creative Writing Entries:**
   a) Each contestant for the Creative Writing Contest is allowed to submit only one (1) entry in the form of a short story in Filipino, English or both.
   b) The entry should not exceed two thousand (2,000) words and should be typewritten or computer printed double-spaced using the Arial font 12 points on a standard short bond paper. Only the titles of the entry can appear on the short story or essay.
2) **For Photo Essay Entries:**
   a) Each contestant for the Photo Essay Contest is allowed to submit only one (1) entry composed of three (3) digital color photographs in 5R size.
   b) Each entry must include digital copies of the photographs in a CD or floppy disks. The resolution of each photograph must not be less than 300dpi in JPEG or TIFF format with a maximum file size of 2MB.
   c) Each entry must have a title and every photo must have a caption at the back describing where the photographs were taken and what they are depicting. The caption should not exceed fifteen (15) words.
   d) Each photograph must also be properly numbered to identify the sequence of the entry. *(e.g. 1 of 3, 2 of 3).* The name of the contestant should not appear in any on the photographs.
3) Each entry must be an interpretation or story of poverty in the Philippines using the National Poverty Map based on the theme given.
4) Each entry must be wholly original. An entry that is found to have committed any violations of applicable laws in plagiarism and protection of intellectual property will be automatically disqualified.
5) No story or essay that has already been published or publicly distributed by the author (*e.g. school publication, internet sites or blogs*) may be entered in the Creative Writing Contest. Similarly, no photograph that has already been published or publicly distributed by the photographer (*e.g. school publication, internet sites or blogs*) may be entered.
4) An entry that qualifies for the finals cannot be published or distributed prior to December 4, 2007.

SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES

1) All entries should be submitted with duly accomplished entry forms.
2) All entries for submission must include photocopies of the following:
   a) Current school registration form or Certificate of Registration from the Registrar's Office
   b) Birth Certificate or Baptismal Certificate
3) Entries should be placed in a short brown envelope and can be mailed or personally delivered by the contestant or his/her authorized representative to the PEF National Poverty Map Contests Secretariat.
4) Entries that are received by the PEF National Poverty Map Contests Secretariat after the deadline must be post marked in order for the entry to be valid.

SCREENING OF ENTRIES

1) Code numbers will be assigned to all entries for purposes of confidentiality.
2) Each contest category will have six (6) finalists which will be determined by the contest categories' respective Screening Committees.
3) The decision of the Screening Committee will be final and binding with all parties concerned.

CRITERIA FOR SCREENING & JUDGING

With the creative interpretation of the PEF National Poverty Map being foremost in mind, the criteria for each contest are as follows:

For the Creative Writing Contest:
a) Substance and Originality: 40%
b) Writing Style, Composition and Organization: 40%
c) Use of PEF National Poverty Map Data: 20%

For the Photo Essay Contest:
a) Relevance to the Theme: 25%
b) Composition: 25%
c) Creativity: 35%
d) Use of the PEF National Poverty Date: 15%

BOARD OF JUDGES

1) A Board of Judges will choose the winners from among the 6 finalists for each contest category.
2) The decision of the Board of Judges will be final and binding to all parties concerned.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

1) Each of the six (6) finalists for each contest category will receive individual certificates.
2) One (1) Grand Prize Winner will be chosen for each contest.
3) The Grand Prize Winners will receive a TROPHY and a PEF DEVELOPMENT ENCOUNTER PACKAGE for TWO (2) which includes:
   a) Roundtrip Airfare/Ship or Bus fare to any of the 29 PEF priority provinces
   b) Free Lodging
   c) Pocket Money (Php1,000 per day/person)
4) The remaining five (5) finalists will receive Consolation Prizes consisting of a brand new cell phone with Php1,000.00 worth of load.
5) Other outstanding entries worthy of recognition may be given special awards. These special awardees will be chosen by PEF.
6) All prizes are not convertible to cash and must be availed within 90 days after the contest finals.

IMPORTANT DATES

Official Contests Launch: **October 08, 2007**
Deadline for Submission of Entries: **November 16, 2007**
Announcement of Finalists: **November 26, 2007**
Announcement of Winners: **December 4, 2007**

CONTACT INFORMATION

For queries or to get a copy of the PEF National Poverty Map or to submit your entry, please contact or visit the:

THE 2007 PEF NATIONAL POVERTY MAP CONTESTS SECRETARIAT
PEACE AND EQUITY FOUNDATION
c/o PhilDHRRA Compound
2/F Room 203, #59 C. Salvador St.,
Loyola Heights, 1108 Quezon City
Telephone No.: (02) 433 2249
Email: contest.secretariat@pef.ph
Website: www.pef.ph

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COUPLES WHO ARE EXPERIENCING SERIOUS problems in their marriage think they have only two options: a life of misery or separation.

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The Retrouvaille program started in Quebec, Canada in 1977 and has since been brought to the United States and other countries, including the Philippines in 1991. It has helped thousands of couples not only to rebuild their relationship but also to save their families.

The live-in weekend for troubled couples is scheduled from Oct. 12 to 14 at the Mother of Mercy Spiritual Center, SVD Road, Tagaytay City.

For inquiries call Fr. Dave Clay at 0918-902-0511 or 525-0308, Ruby at 931-8313 and 0918-923-2973, Nes or Inday at 938-9719 or 0916-443-8346, Neomi at 681-5746 or 0916-395-4642. All calls will be held in strict confidence.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, October 7, 2007
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

The just one shall live.

Yahweh, how long will I cry for help while you pay no attention to me? I denounce the oppression and you do not save.

Why do you make me see injustice?

Are you pleased to look on tyranny? All I see is outrage, violence and quarrels.

Then Yahweh answered me and said,

"Write down the vision, inscribe it on tables so it can be easily read, since this is a vision for an appointed time; it will not fail but will be fulfilled in due time. If it delays, wait for it, for it will come and will not be deferred. Look:

"I don't look with favor on the one who gives way; the upright, on the other hand, will live by his faithfulness."

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

Do not be ashamed of your testimony to the Lord!

I invite you to fan into a flame the gift of God you received through the laying on of my hands. For God did not confer on us a spirit of bashfulness, but of strength, love and good judgment. Do not be ashamed of testifying to our Lord, nor of seeing me in chains. On the contrary, do your share in laboring for the Gospel with the strength of God.

Follow the pattern of the sound doctrine which you have heard from me, concerning faith and love in Christ Jesus. Keep this precious deposit with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives within us.

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

If you have faith!

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." And the Lord said, "If you have faith even the size of a mustard seed, you may say to this tree: 'Be uprooted and plant yourself in the sea,' and it will obey you.

"Who among you would say to your servant coming in from the fields after plowing or tending sheep: 'Come at once and sit down at table'? No, you tell him: 'Prepare my dinner. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink; you can eat and drink afterwards.' Do you thank this servant for doing what you commanded? So for you. When you have done all that you have been told to do, you must say: 'We are no more than servants; we have only done our duty.'"

Commentary

The prophet cries out to God—all there is is violence, ruin, misery, and strife. And then Habakkuk is given a vision that he must keep for the vision will come true. We are to wait for it and we are to believe and be just and so, live. What vision do we live by and cling to when there is so much violence and discord in our world and our church? Timothy is told to stir into flame the gift that was given to him—to be strong, loving and wise and never be ashamed to bear his share of the hardship that comes with the gospel.

Do we live by faith, even as small as a mustard seed? Are we the servants of the Lord at work as shepherds (gathering and keeping the church together), plowing (planting and teaching, nourishing the gospel in others), and serving one another at the table of the Lord and in the community's daily needs to survive? Do we remember that we are servants and that we must do as we have been told? Are most of us a bit useless, even when we fulfill our duties? Have we ever done all that we are commanded? O God, help us to live by the vision of Jesus and your kingdom among us in the presence of justice and peace.

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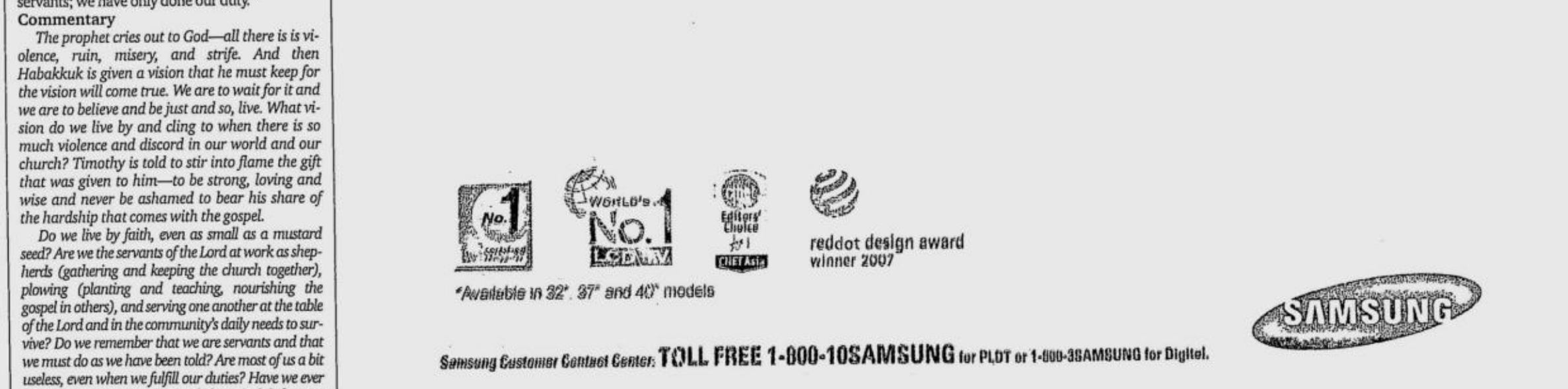

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Be an Inquirer.

JI militants eyed in Kidapawan blasts

By Orlando Dinoy, Jeoffrey Maitem and Edwin O. Fernandez
Inquirer Mindanao

KIDAPAWAN CITY—POLICE SUSpect that the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terror network was behind Friday's twin blasts here which killed two and wounded more than 30 people, mostly students.

Police chief Avelino Razon said the attacks bore the "signature" of the JI, which has links with local Muslim extremists such as the Abu Sayyaf group.

"We are verifying all these reports. But most likely it is the handiwork of local terrorists," said Razon, who visited the bomb sites early yesterday.

Razon told reporters that arrested suspect George German, 27, could be a JI member and was tasked by the group to carry a test mission here.

Another bomb attack was foiled yesterday morning after the military discovered a bomb, fashioned out of a rifle grenade, at the public market in Pikit, North Cotabato.

Razon has put police forces across the country on alert to prevent a repeat of the two blasts, which occurred minutes apart.

Military spokesperson Julieto Ando said they were looking at the possibility that an outlawed local Muslim group, the al-Khobar, who had received explosives training from the JI, was behind the blasts.

A police source, however, said that the Abu Sayaff was most likely behind the attacks.

The first explosion which occured at 7 p.m. near the Sugni Supermarket along Quezon Avenue instantly killed Honney May Lozada, 8. Her wounded cousin, Heidi Lozada, 12, died before midnight Friday.

Chief Insp. Leo Ajero, Kidapawan City police chief, said German was seen leaving an improvised explosive device in the middle of two parked vehicles near Sugni.

SOLDIERS secure the blast site, Friday, in Kidapawan City. At right, a woman tries to help an unidentified girl who was wounded in the explosion. AP

The bomb, which German allegedly left, was fashioned out of a mortar shell and was detonated by mobile phone.

US bomb experts were seen yesterday morning near Sugni and near Imperial Plaza, the scene of the second explosion.

Capt. Romeo Noriega, chief of the Army's 63rd Explosive Ordinance Disposal Team, told the INQUIRER that the US bomb experts are participating in the Balikatan exercises.

"They are helping us in determining if the twin attacks bore the signature of the Jemaah Islamiyah or the Abu Sayyaf," Noriega said.

Col. Dickson Hermoso, commander of 7th Infantry Battalion, told the INQUIRER that the bomb in Pikit was found at the meat section of its public market around 7:45 a.m.

"Luckily, alert market-goers immediately informed our troops," he said.

Hermoso said they were trying to determine if the group behind the Kidapawan blasts was also responsible for the bomb try in Pikit.

Lt. Col. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the 6th Infantry Division, said prior to the explosions, they have been receiving reports of a bomb plot by the JI.

German has denied being a JI member and carrying any explosive.

He told reporters he was drinking with friends when the first explosion occurred. He said he was stunned by the blast and ran to avoid harm.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) said the explosions could be the handiwork of people opposed to the peace process. *With reports from Alcuin Papa and AFP*

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SAN FRANCISCO: Hundreds of protesters including some Buddhist monks gather to urge the Burma government to stop the violence and release the detained monks. AFP

World watching Burma

From page A1

monks and other citizens.

In a statement issued by The Elie Weisel Foundation, the Nobel laureates called on the international community, particularly China, Russia and India—who have been competing for Burma's bountiful oil and gas resources—to use their influence to secure democracy in Burma and the release of Suu Kyi.

Amnesty's London-based secretary general Irene Khan said the protests were aimed at focusing world attention on the actions of the military junta.

"Support is now greatly needed to keep visible pressure on the Burmese authorities to stop the violence toward demonstrators, ensure the safety of detainees and release prisoners of conscience," Khan said in a statement on Amnesty's international website www.amnesty.org.

Saffron revolution

In Melbourne, Australia, 200 people marched behind a banner demanding "No More Bloodshed." In Sydney, some 200 marchers dressed in colorful clothes to show their support for what some are calling the "Saffron Revolution" after the Burmese monks' robes.

Around 500 people marched through Wellington's main thoroughfare in New Zealand, with smaller protests held in other cities across the country in an expression of solidarity with Burma's prodemocracy protesters.

Dozens also gathered in front of the Burma embassy in Bangkok, shouting "Free Burma" and brandishing pictures of Suu Kyi, while campaigners in India prepared to hold a candle-lit vigil outside a war memorial in the heart of New Delhi.

In Taipei, hundreds braved a strong typhoon to demand action from the international community. Smaller crowds turned out in Bangkok and Manila. In Malaysia's biggest city, Kuala Lumpur, 300 people attended a candlelight vigil Friday evening.

More rallies were planned in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Spain and Switzerland, the United States and Canada.

Protest intensifies at UN

International condemnation of Burma's junta intensified at the United Nations, with the United States warning it would push for UN sanctions against Myanmar if it fails to respond to the world's demands for democratic reforms.

The junta's treatment of the Buddhist monks—who are revered in this deeply religious nation and led the street protests—is a key issue that could further inflame the people of Burma and anger soldiers loyal to the military rulers.

The government insisted that most of the monks it detained had already been freed, with only 109 still in custody, according to an official statement broadcast Friday night on state TV. The report said the junta was still hunting for four more monks it believed were ringleaders of the rallies.

Demonstrations that began in mid-August over a sharp fuel price increase swelled into Burma's largest antigovernment protests in 19 years, inspired largely by thousands of monks who poured into the streets.

TV images in the past week showed soldiers shooting into crowds of unarmed protesters. The government described the troops' reaction as "systematically controlling" the protesters.

The government says 10 people were killed in the Sept. 26-27 crackdown and 2,100 were detained. But dissident groups put the death toll at more than 200 and the number of detainees at nearly 6,000.

At the United Nations in New York, the UN's special envoy to Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, urged the country's military rulers to strive for democracy and quickly start talks with detained opposition leader Suu Kyi.

SYDNEY: Outside the city's iconic Opera House, demonstrators rail against the Burmese military ruler. AFP

Gambari said he was "cautiously encouraged" after the junta chief, Senior Gen. Than Shwe, offered to meet with Suu Kyi, with certain conditions. Those include giving up her calls for confronting the government and for imposing sanctions against it, Myanmar state media said.

Talks without conditions

The UN envoy stressed, however, that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called for talks without any preconditions to overcome "the high level of mistrust" between Than Shwe and Suu Kyi. The two have not met since 2002.

Washington has threatened to introduce a resolution seeking sanctions, including an arms embargo, against Burma if it does not move quickly toward national reconciliation and release its detainees.

The US and the EU have issued some sanctions against the junta, but China and Russia have ruled out any Security Council action.

At a news conference near UN headquarters Friday, actor Jim Carrey urged the Security Council to pass a resolution authorizing the arms embargo, saying the world was contributing to the brutal crackdown by failing to take firm action.

Carrey is among many Hollywood stars to sign a letter urging the UN chief to help win Suu Kyi's freedom. Others include Jennifer Aniston, Anjelica Huston, Dustin Hoffman and Susan Sarandon.

Crooner Damien Rice planned to contribute to the global protests by performing a song he wrote for Suu Kyi at a concert in London's Wembly Arena, according to the rights group Burma Campaign UK.

18 monasteries searched

Friday's state media report said Burmese troops searched 18 monasteries where alleged rogue monks were living. Initially, authorities detained 513 monks, one novice, 167 men and 30 women lay disciples from the monasteries, but most were released after "careful scrutiny," it said.

Now only 109 monks and nine other men were still being questioned, it said.

But all in all, the global day of demonstrations failed to spark in Asia, with a Tokyo rally canceled and the one in Bangkok drawing only around 100 people.

Burma's rulers meanwhile broadcast rare footage of detained Aung San Suu Kyi on state television for the first time in at least four years.

They said they had freed hundreds of detained monks, and restored Internet access after a week—but only during a military-imposed curfew, users reported. The steps appeared aimed at appeasing the international outrage over their crackdown. *AP, AFP, Reuters*

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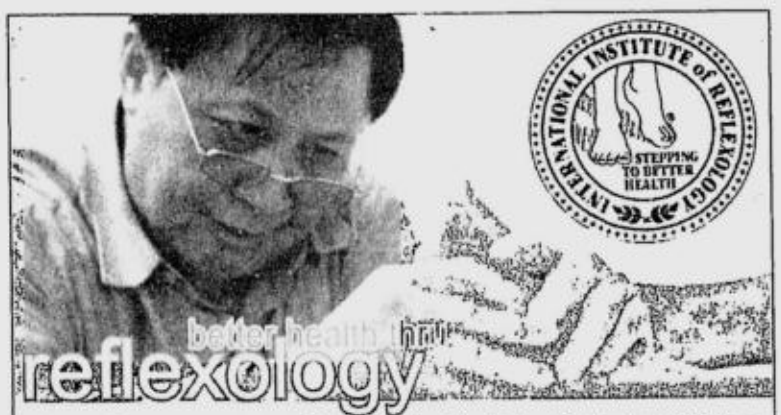

George Tay, representative of the International Institute of Reflexology (USA) in Asia, the healing authority of reflexology in the world, will be in Manila to conduct reflexology sessions on the Ingham Method of Reflexology from October 10 to 30. He will be focusing on spot reflexology for chronic ailments and discomfort, stroke patients who can stand but cannot walk, and fertility problems for couples. We are now accepting advance bookings for this limited engagement.

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GMA back with $2-B investments

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo arrived in Manila last night after securing about $2 billion in new investments from Indian companies.

The President arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport at 9 p m., ending a two-nation swing that took her to China and India, two of the fastest growing economies in the world.

"With India now one of the world's top economies with a new middle class of half a billion people, (India's) internal market demand and domestic consumption can have a direct and positive impact on us in terms of job creation, balance of trade and investment," the President said.

Trade Secretary Peter Favila and Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said the Indian investments amounted to at least $2 billion.

These include the $1.6 billion new investment of Ispat Industries Ltd, owner of Global Steelworks Philippines, so far the biggest single investment by an Indian firm in the Philippines.

Global Steel

In a speech Friday at a forum of the Filipino-Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and India's Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry, President Arroyo said that Global Steel was pouring in new investments to the Philippines because of the highly conducive investment climate in the country.

Global Steel thus joins the billion-dollar investments to the country earlier made by America's Texas Instruments and AES, Hanjin Industries of Korea and Marubeni Corp. of Japan, she told Indian businessmen.

"Global Steel of Mittal joined our billion-dollar club by informing us of their plans to set up an integrated steel plant in southern Philippines involving investments of $1.6 billion," the President said.

She later told reporters that steel magnate Lakshmi N. Mittal personally called her up to confirm the new investment.

In 2004, Global Steelworks Philippines acquired the country's largest steel mill in Iligan City, formerly operated by the National Steel Corp. for $225 million.

Joint commission

India and the Philippines also agreed to set up a joint commission that would explore ways to further boost bilateral trade and investments.

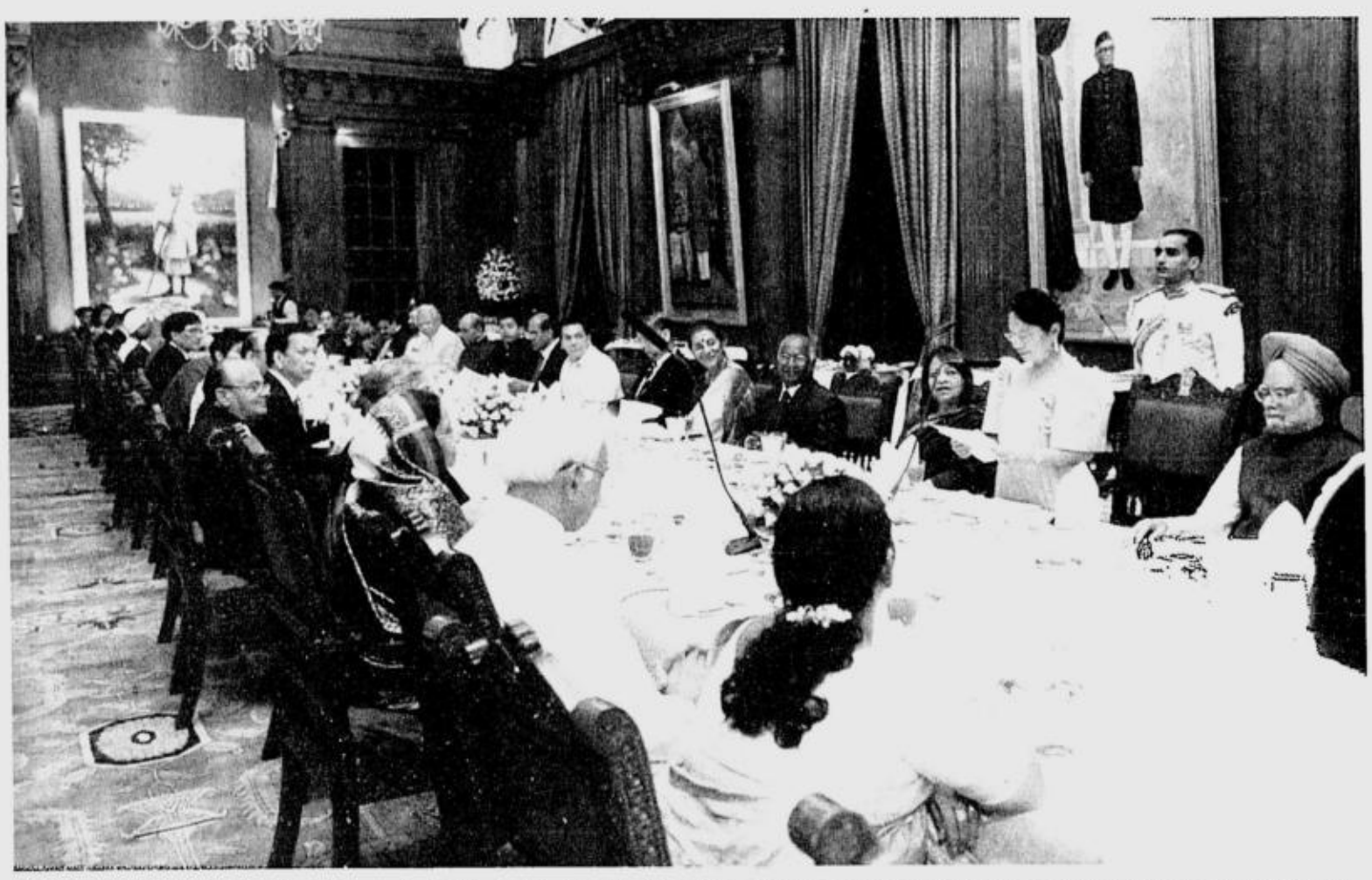
Both countries signed several agreements to strengthen economic relations, particularly on the importation of cheaper medicines, expansion of business process outsourcing and call centers in the Philippines, deals on renewable energy and health care, and cooperation in fighting terrorism.

No new trade agreements were signed in China, but Ms Arroyo officially inaugurated a cargo terminal in Shandung province, a joint venture between a Chinese firm and Filipino businessman Enrique Razon.

From China, Ms Arroyo flew to India for a three-day visit.

On Thursday, the President visited Mumbai, India's business hub, where she invited Indian pharmaceutical companies to set up plants in the Philippines to help cut the price of medicines by half.

She also witnessed the signing of a $35-million agreement between the Indian State Trading Corp. and the Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC) for the purchase of medicines which will be sold to government's "Botika ng Bayan" outlets.



STATE BANQUET for President Arroyo hosted by Indian President Pratibha Patil at the Ashoka Hall of the presidential palace in New Delhi on Oct. 5. In her remarks, Ms Arroyo thanks her host for her continuing support and for the success of her 3-day state visit. She returns to Manila on Saturday night. PCPO MALACAÑANG

Fast-paced growth

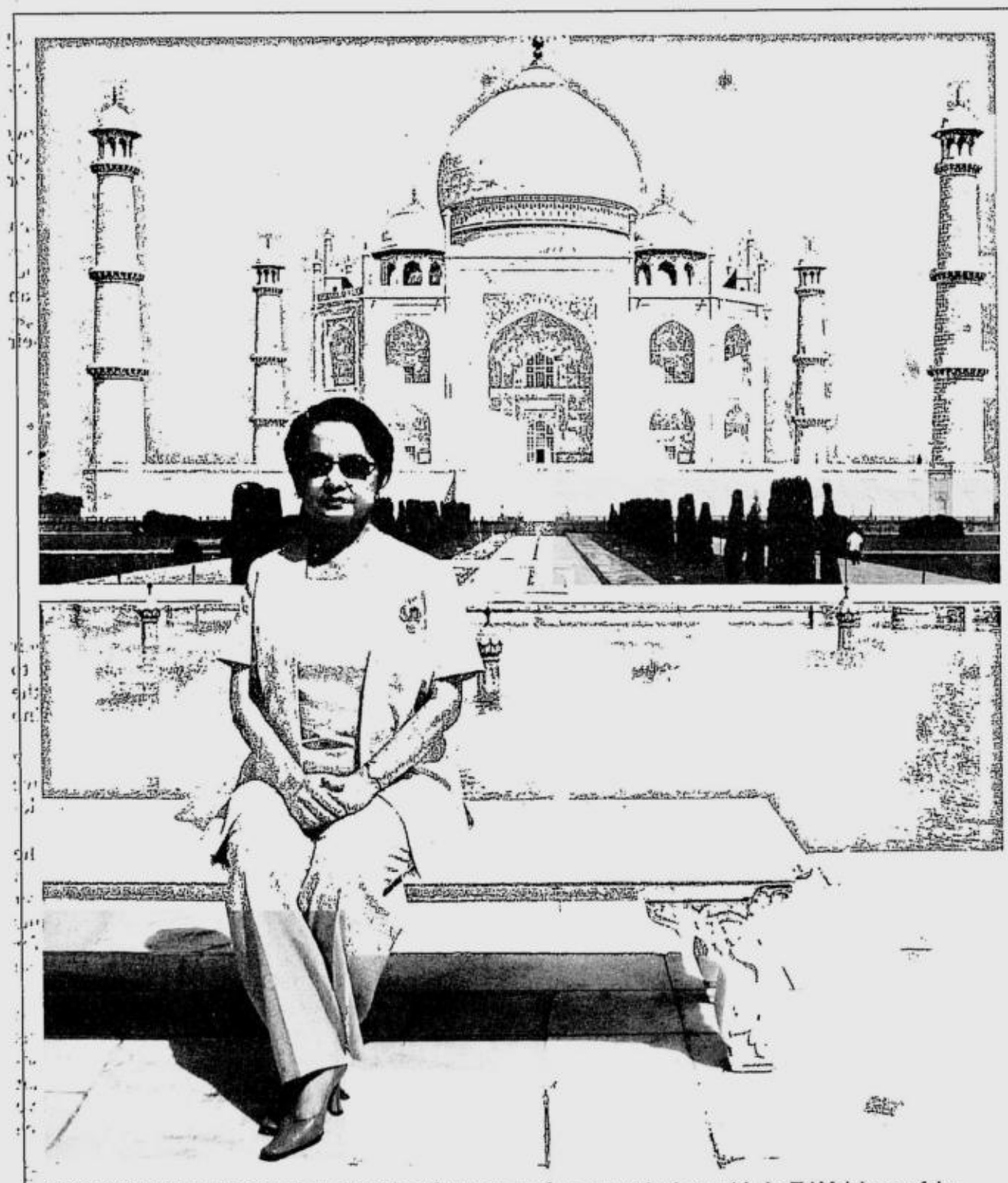
Indian software companies such as Infosys Technologies Ltd. and Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. have also entered into joint ventures in information technology services in the telecommunication and banking sectors in the Philippines over the past two years.

Ms Arroyo hoped that India's fast-paced economic growth would translate into more investments in the Asian region, including the Philippines.

India's economy has been growing at average of nearly 9 percent annually over the last couple of years. Its exports to the Philippines totaled $400 million in the fiscal year ending March 2006 while imports from the Philippines amounted to $119.5 million for the same period.

Aside from the PITC agreement, other bilateral agreements signed include:

- Agreement to Establish the Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation in defense and security, health and medicine, trade and investments, energy, agriculture, tourism and culture.
- $50-million credit line from the Export and Import Bank of India.
- Philippines-India Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism.
- Memorandum of Agreement in the Field of Health and Medicine.
- Memorandum of Agreement on Enhanced Cooperation in the Field of Renewable Energy.
- Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Foreign Service Institutes of the Philippines and India.
- Memorandum of Agreement on the Waiver of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic Passports and Official Passports.



JUST LIKE ANY TOURIST in Agra, President Arroyo poses for a souvenir photo with the Taj Majal, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. OPS MALACAÑANG

Visit to Taj Mahal caps GMA's India state visit

By Michael Lim Ubac

AGRA CITY, INDIA—TAKING TIME OFF from politics, President Arroyo, wearing an orange sleeveless dress, toured the Taj Mahal, a spectacular tomb built by Indian Emperor Shah Jahan for his queen, Mumtaj Mahal, in the 17th century.

In a jovial mood, Ms Arroyo posed for a picture in front of the palatial tomb like an ordinary tourist.

She called out to members of her delegation, which included Cabinet members, congressmen, businessmen and local executives, to join her in a photo.

Even the members of the Malacañang Press Corps, who traveled with her on the two-nation swing which started in China on Oct. 2, were called. They gamely posed with Ms Arroyo stood for about 20 minutes under a blistering midday sun for the photo ops.

The visit to the Taj Mahal, which topped a recent Internet survey of the new seven wonders of the modern world, capped her three-day state visit to India.

Ignoring critics

She made no mention of the impeachment case filed against her by lawyer Roel Pulido during the tour, and left it to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye to issue an official statement.

During a tete-a-tete with reporters the day before, President Arroyo said in so many words that her strength lay in ignoring her ardent critics.

"If I have to attend to everything, if I listen to all the political noise, my energy will dissipate," she candidly said during a chat with media representatives over late lunch at the Oberio Hotel in India's capital New Delhi, about a four-hour drive from this ancient northern city.

Laser beam

"I focus like a laser beam. My frustration has nothing to do with my work. I do the same work whether I'm frustrated or not," she said, when asked how she managed to sustain her workaholic ways.

She said the country wouldn't have achieved its 7.5 percent growth rate in the second quarter of the year if she was forever embroiled in political bickering.

"(If I would have spent my time) talking about politics, we won't be where we are," said the President.

To keep herself focused, the President said she employs "time management, eats the right (food), exercises, gets enough sleep, prays, and then focuses (on her presidential duties and goals)."

Her legacy

Asked about her legacy, President Arroyo said she wanted to be remembered as the President who not only "made difficult decisions, but (also) made permanent changes in the economy."

She said she has built infrastructure to modernize the country and "brought down the rate of poverty" which, she said, was her "overarching goal."

When told that some "presidentiables" in the Senate have already taken credit for her pet bill, the cheaper medicines bill, she turned religious:

"They can take all the credit. It really doesn't matter. At the end of the day, to me, you know what they teach in religion. Why did God create us? To love, to know him and to serve him in this world, so that we can be happy with him in heaven forever."

Bollywood goes to RP for location shooting

By Michael Lim Ubac

NEW DELHI (VIA PLDT)—BOLlywood movies will soon be shot in the Philippines.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said that she has invited Indian filmmakers to consider the Philippines as an alternative site for producing Bollywood films during a courtesy call Thursday in Mumbai.

Speaking before the Indian and Filipino business forum at the Oberoi Hotel here, the President said Bollywood movies would be produced in the Philippines within the year because of the country's beautiful scenery and alternative location sites.

"When we explained this to 17 members of Bollywood yesterday, they agreed to visit the Philippines before the end of the year to look for film locations. The leading producer, Aditya Raj Kapoor committed to make a movie in the Philippines within a year," Ms Arroyo said.

Tourism Secretary Ace Durano confirmed this, saying Kapoor pledged to shoot a $10-million Indian movie in the Philippines.

Production site

Bollywood is the informal name given to the popular Mumbai-based Hindi-language film industry in India. It is a portmanteau word of Bombay (the former name of Mumbai) and Hollywood, the center of the American film industry.

The President said the Philippines offers fine location sites, creative Filipino talents, post-production houses and studios, and other technical and logistics requirements for Bollywood, the largest film industry in the world which produces some 1,000 films each year.

In an earlier interview, Viva Films chief executive officer Vic del Rosario said the Philippines could take advantage of the huge market of India which has a population of some 1.1 billion, next only to China's 1.3 billion people.

Del Rosario said the Philippines could develop and offer alternative production sites for foreign filmmakers in Subic and Clark such as the Fantasia Philippines.

Thomas Puig, chief executive officer of Compressor Films that was involved in the production of the top-grosser film "Pirates of the Caribbean," added that his company is eyeing alternative production and location sites such as Fantasia's giant water tank and the scenic islands and water areas in the country.

Pacquiao going for KO

From page A1

super featherweight belt, reserved for boxers rated 11th and lower by the sanctioning body.

Barrera, 33, was stopped in the 11th round by Pacquiao when they fought in 2003 for the Ring Magazine featherweight title at the Alamodome in Texas.

Barrera (63-5, with 42 KOs) said this will be his last fight regardless of the outcome.

Pacquiao, in the summer of a spectacular career, was again the heavy favorite, as in his previous fights in the 130-lb division, after having reigned as WBC flyweight champion and IBF super bantamweight title-holder.

Barrera has ruled as world super bantamweight, featherweight and super featherweight champion, having lost to WBC 130-lb King Juan Manuel Marquez in a title fight last March.

The bare-chested Barrera kept flexing his muscles after checking in at 130-lb, the super featherweight limit to the chants and cheers of an adoring Mexican crowd.

There was an eerie silence when Pacquiao stepped slowly, gingerly like an apparition, onto the weighing scales.

Filipinos similarly erupted for their celebrated countryman who encountered his first major weight obstacle since hitting it big-time.

Famished

Barrera would snag a bottle of red-colored juice drink and take a quick gulp after successfully weighing in.

Pacquiao appeared more famished but, in a display of depth and resiliency, the Filipino boxing superstar moved out quietly, in the process putting back his necklace and giving the crowd a sign of the cross with his right hand, without touching a badly needed drink.

Scheduled to be unveiled in the main event is a new Pacquiao weapon, perfected almost in secret at the Wild Card gym upon his return from training in the Philippines, which culminates in a speared shot to the body.

Problem solved

"Problems solved," said a Team Pacquiao insider with nutritional basics three hours after the Pacman had passed the laborious weight test.

The last time Pacquiao encountered a similar problem in 1999, he was stripped of his WBC flyweight crown and was knocked out the following day in Thailand.

The reliable informant said Pacquiao was primarily given pedialyte with lots of sugar after the weigh-in to restore blood and water balance.

Desired results were manifested an hour later through correct body moisture.

Pacquiao later had steaming chicken *tinola* and rice and should be back to perfect fighting form in time for the fight.

It could not, however, be determined if the forced draining would be felt if and when the 12-round bout goes the distance.

"Maybe yes, maybe no, because the body takes at least two days to fully recover from severe draining," he said.

Mystery poundage

There were concerned calls on whether or not Pacquiao made the weight following yesterday's INQUIRER report on the mysterious excess poundage of the boxing hero.

Pacquiao woke up Friday three pounds over and, instead of jogging, he was made to work on the treadmill inside the hotel spa.

He perspired after a lengthy drill and was measured to have lost at least two pounds after a rub-down.

He was given rest to allow body moisture to return to normal before the final move to get rid of the one and final excess pound.

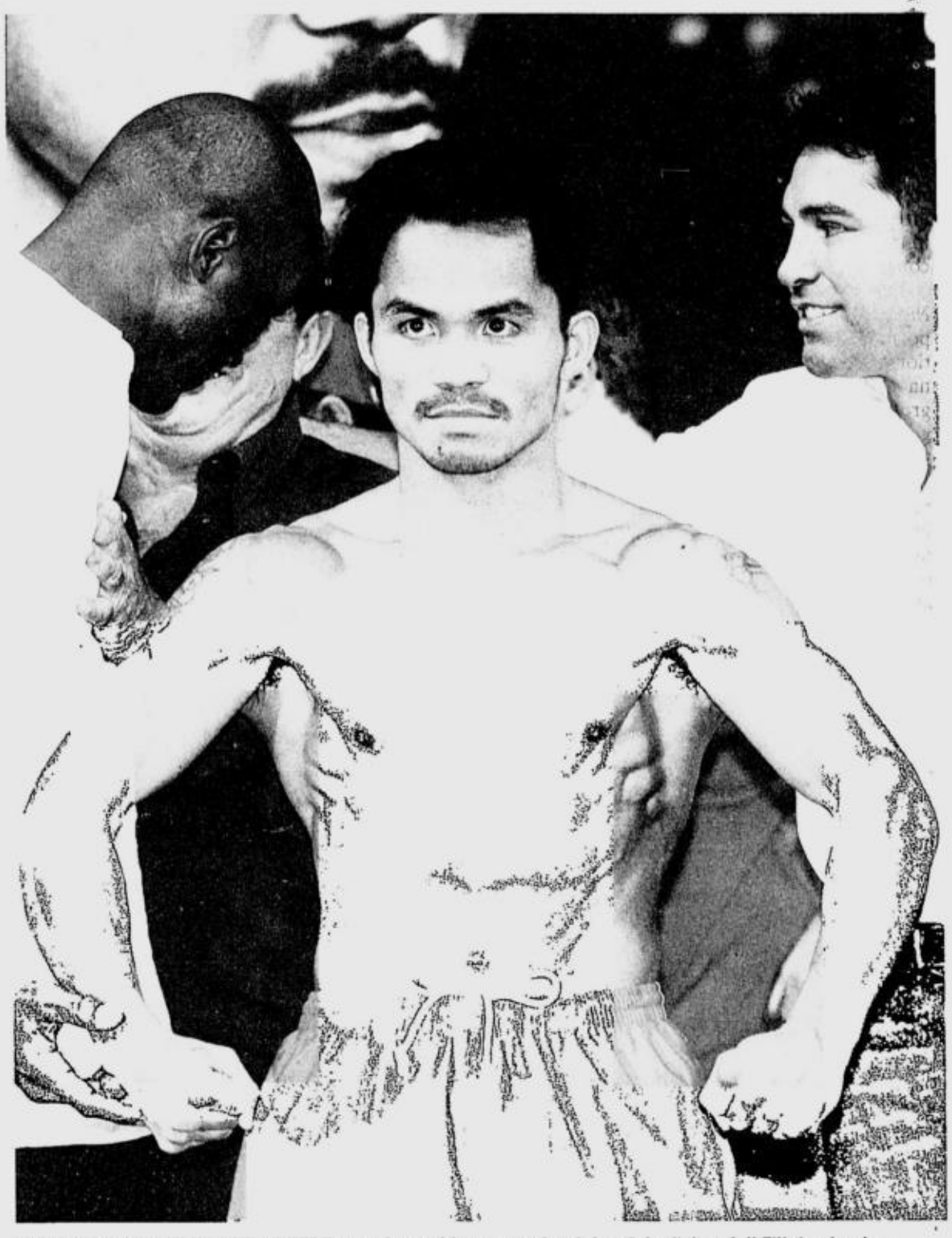
There's the prevailing popular feel that Pacquiao, a -340 favorite, would not be outfought in the main bout.

Outbox or outpoint

There has, however, emerged a chance to outbox or outpoint the RP prizefight star based on yesterday's developments.

"He will make the weight, but this thing will definitely have an effect," said the eminent boxing scholar Larry Merchant, pointing a finger to his gray head.

Barrera is a +280 underdog, meaning a $100 bet could pay $280 if the Mexican triumphs.



NOT HIS ROBUST, BLAZING SELF, or so it would seem at the sight of the "ghostly" Filipino boxing superstar at the weigh in on Saturday in Las Vegas. AP

How to properly sing the national anthem

From page A1

ical Institute (NHI), guidelines on how the anthem should be sung are enshrined in the law.

Section 37 of Republic Act No. 8491 (An Act Prescribing the Code of the National Flag, Anthem, Motto, Coat of Arms, and other Heraldic Items and Devices of the Philippines)—passed in 1998, the year of the Philippine centennial—says the "rendition of the National Anthem, whether played or sung, shall be in accordance with the musical arrangement and composition of Julian Felipe."

Felipe is the Cavite composer that President Emilio Aguinaldo commissioned on June 5, 1898 to prepare a composition which would be played during Independence ceremonies.

Originally titled Marcha Filipina Magdalo, the composition was adopted as the official march of the Philippines.

The anthem remained without words until August 1899, when a young poet-soldier named Jose Palma wrote the poem, Filipinas, which became the anthem's lyrics.

Martial song

Ocampo said that the anthem, when played, "must carry a brisk martial tone and tempo."

Teodoro Atienza, heraldry section head of the NHI's Research, Publications and Heraldry Division, said that when sung "at the proper pace," the national anthem should last from only "53 seconds to less than a minute."

But national anthem booboos still abound.

Aside from Geronimo, singers Lani Misalucha, who sang in the first Pacquiao-Morales bout on March 19, 2005, and Bituin Escalante (July 2, 2006, Pacquiao vs. Larios at the Araneta Coliseum), also took vocal liberties in their renditions of the national anthem.

Lines, notes missed

Jennifer Bautista, who sang in the Pacquiao-Morales rematch on Jan. 21, 2006, went off-key on the song's last word.

At the Sept. 16, 2007 match between reigning world bantamweight champion Gerry Peñalosa and North American Boxing Federation bantamweight champion Bernabe Concepcion in Alabang, Christian Bautista delivered an abbreviated version of the song when he missed the lines, *Buhay ay langit sa piling mo / Aming ligaya na 'pag may mang-aapi.*

Bautista apologized for the "memory lapse."

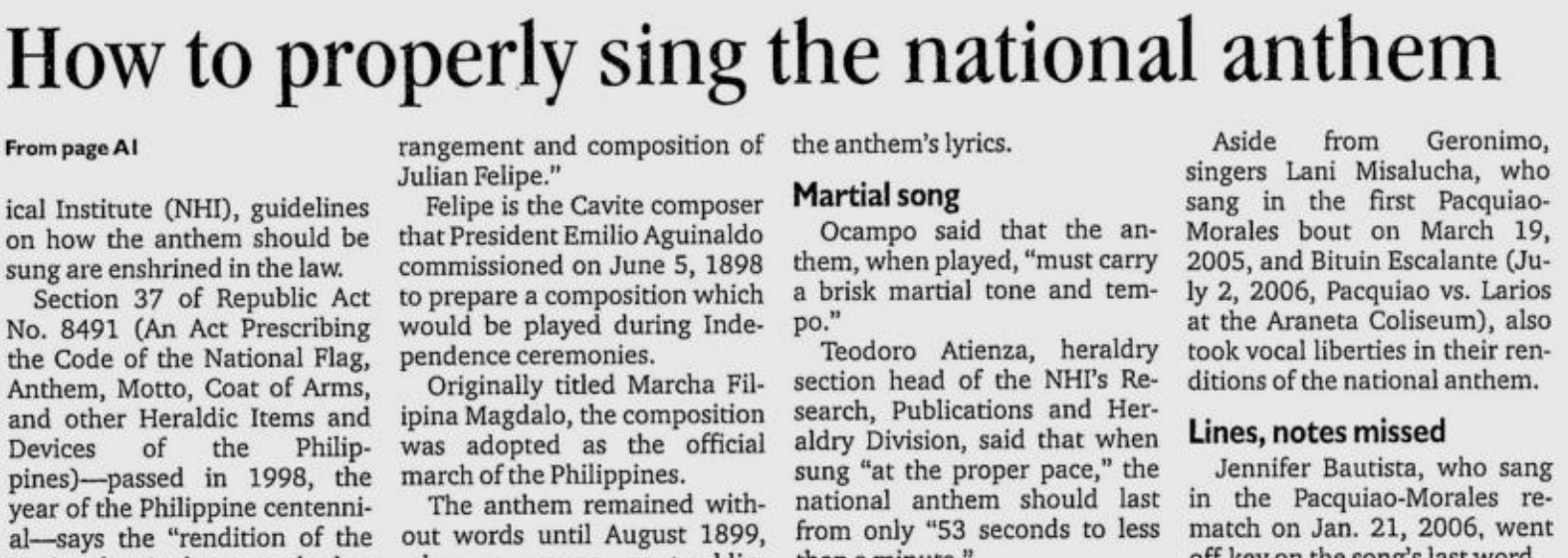
P50,000 penalty

Pacquiao has chosen Kyla to sing the national anthem in his Oct. 6 rematch with Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Atienza said the Institute had spoken to GMA 7 network to remind Kyla about the proper way of singing the national song.

Singers who do not follow the rules can be fined P50,000 or be imprisoned for a year, or both, he said.

"But our lawyer says we can't go after the singers because they sing abroad," Atienza said. "Of course, that doesn't mean they should forget their obligation to their country and their people."



THE CHAMPS at the weigh in attended to by, from left Bernard Hopkins, Freddie Roach, promoter Oscar la Hoya and Eric Buhain, Games and Amusement Board chair who's supervising the much-awaited rematch. AP

Experts unanimous on Pacman

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS—JUST LIKE BACK in the Philippines, home-base of world boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao, majority of experts down here don't see a chance of a Marco Antonio Barrera win today.

Nigel Collins, the Ring Magazine editor, yesterday led a host of boxing minds who manifested their unanimous vote for Pacquiao in his second fight with Barrera.

"Age will be the main deciding factor in the fight," Collins told Hermie Rivera in the fight media center at the Mandalay Hotel.

Collins said Barrera could indeed have an edge in skill and experience, but Pacquiao has tremendous speed and power, he would most likely overrun his ageing foe.

Boxing great Bernard Hopkins said Pacquiao is just too ahead of Barrera in practically all departments of the game.

"Pacquiao is the fastest the most powerful in his division today, this will be mismatch," Hopkins said. "He's the better all-around star."

Sugar Ray Leonard, who visited the media room yesterday, repeated an earlier prediction that it should be a knockout by Pacquiao.

But, at the same time, he advised Pacquiao to stay focused and follow his game plan, no matter what.

International matchmaker Rafael Mendoza, who brought Oscar Larios to Manila last year, was also all-out for a Pacquiao win, whether by stoppage or decision.

"Barrera can't catch Pacquiao, no matter how hard he tries, impossible. The guy has great shifting, he's already on the other side before you could even start looking that way," he said

The biggest vote came from Jose Sulaiman, WBC president, who has told Ronnie Nathanielsz in Manila that Barrera has no chance.

"It will be by knockout, no other way," Sulaiman said.

Of course, all these experts cannot totally discount the possibility of an accident.

A cut, just like what happened in the first Pacquiao fight versus Erik Morales, which was won by the Mexican legend, could change everything.

If it could also be considered an accident, the unexpected weight problem encountered by Pacquiao in his preparation against Barrera, could also prove a major obstacle.

No takers for Barrera; betting is on which round he'll get KO'd

By Calvin D. Cordova
Contributor

CEBU CITY—THERE ARE PRACtically no takers for bets against Pinoy boxing hero Manny Pacquiao, who fights Mexican boxer Marco Antonio Barrera today.

Pacquiao is so heavily favored that the betting now appears to be focused on what round in the fight he will knock out Barrera.

City Councilor Raul Alcoseba, vice chair of the city council's committee on games, amusement and sports, said one of his friends even agreed to collect only 30 percent of his P100,000 bet if Pacquiao won the fight but there were no takers.

Only a few true-blue *dehadistas* were willing to bet on Barrera.

Boxing promoter Rex "Wakee" Salud admitted that he made a P5,000 bet that Pacquiao would win within the fifth to ninth rounds.

"If Manny wins on the 10th to the 12th round, I'll lose (the bet)," revealed Salud, who owns the WRS Gym in this city where Pacquiao trained for a month, from August to early September.

While he did not join the betting, Alcoseba predicted that Pacquiao would win in round 6.

The 33-year-old Barrera had lost his last fight against Juan Marquez, while the 28-year-old Pacquiao has won his last five fights.

Boxing aficionados think that Pacquiao's string of victories and his age are two very important factors that spell victory.

Hundreds of Cebuanos are expected to be glued to their television sets this morning to watch their boxing idol at the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Television Network GMA 7 has been given the exclusive right to air the fight via a delayed telecast.

Those who want to watch the Pacquiao-Barrera fight on a much bigger screen, may visit many public establishments that advertise big screens for entrance fees ranging from P60 to P600.

The Cebu City Council on Oct. 3 denied any exemptions from the 10-percent amusement tax on establishments that earn money airing the fight live on cable television, said Vice Mayor Michael Rama.

Councilor Rodrigo Abellanosa said City Hall inspectors will be fielded to visit establishments showing the fight.

In neighboring Lapu-lapu City, the local government pegged the entrance fee at P50 and P100 for viewing at the Lapu-Lapu Sports Complex.

Salud, who is now in Las Vegas as part of Pacquiao's entourage, rented the Cebu Coliseum and the Mandaue City Cultural and Sports Complex to air the fight on a giant screen. The charge is P300 for ringside seats, and P100 for lower and upper box seats.

If others wants to watch the fight at the post Marriott Hotel, where two giant screens have been set up in the grand ballroom, the charge is P600, inclusive of bottomless drinks.

In Internet age, postman gives job relevance ...

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The Beacon School is offering two (2) full tuition scholarships, for entry to Grade Six for the 2008-2009 school year.

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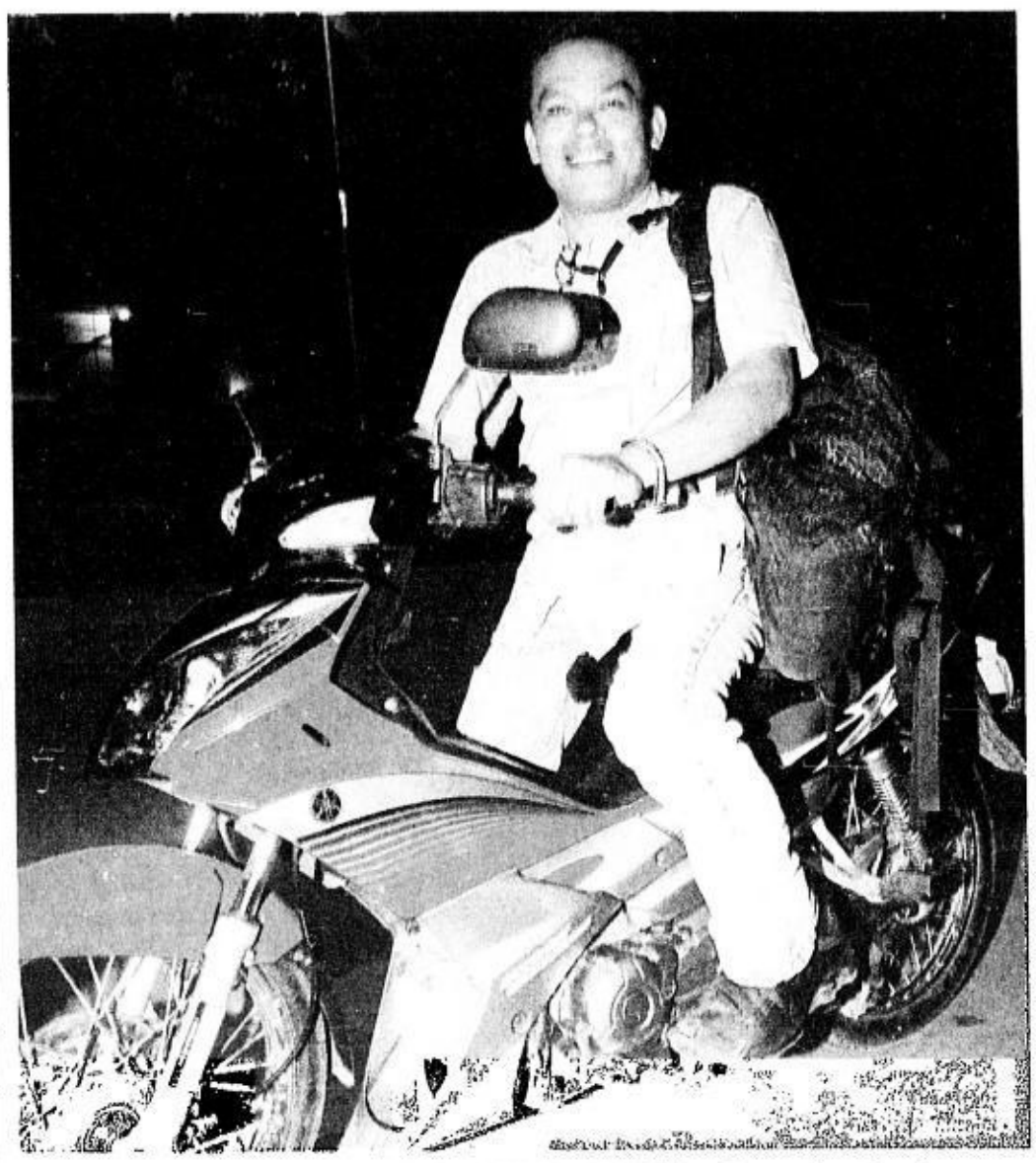
Applications, including a letter of application, a brief resume of the child's achievements, and latest school records, should be sent in an enveloped marked "Scholarship Application" to the HEADMASTER, The Beacon School, PCPD Building, 2332 Chino Roces Avenue Extension, Taguig. Additional information about the Beacon School Scholarships may be found online at www.beaconschool.ph.

Application deadline has been extended to Friday, October 26, 2007.



THIS POSTMAN DOESN'T EVEN HAVE TO RING ONCE. Floro Camote is assigned to depressed areas in Quezon City where houses are without addresses, much less doorbells.
ROMY HOMILLADA

From page A1

Quezon City Central Post Office, enters seedy slums peopled by pickpockets and robbers, and puts up with threats from thugs just to bring letters, checks and bills to the residents.

"I don't want to go back to our office with my bag half-full with undelivered mail," says Camote, 47, in an interview Friday night.

200 households same address

The dedicated mailman has taken an extra step: He has given names (including his own) to streets and assigned numbers to homes in overcrowded communities where, say 200 households have the same mailing address.

That initiative has won him praises from the public, and awards from the Quezon City Post Office, the Philippine Postal Corp. (PhilPost) and recently, from the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

Camote, together with a slain assistant solicitor general, a jail warden, a school superintendent, a forester, and an auditing examiner, each received the Dangal ng Bayan Award at the Cultural Center of the Philippines last Sept. 18.

Trophy, cash, promotion

The award is given to individuals for performing an extraordinary act or service, and consistently demonstrating exemplary ethical behavior in accordance with the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.

The award comes with a trophy designed by National Artist Napoleon Abueva, P100,000 cash bonus and a promotion.

Camote has been cited for his street-naming and house-numbering initiative (which he replicated wherever he was posted), his fierce promotion of PhilPost products and services, and his dedication to work.

The CSC describes him as a "modern-day" postman who continued to make his job relevant in the age of the Internet. "This kind of service can only come from a public servant who has the interest of many at heart."

Mind-boggling

After years of doing odd jobs in Manila, Camote, a high school graduate, was hired in 1994 by his neighbor, Eduardo Alcoy, to work at the Quezon City letter carrier section at City Hall.

In his first few weeks of delivering mail to Barangay Holy Spirit, a sprawling, crowded village behind the Batasang Pambansa complex in Quezon City, he was shocked to find that the houses did not have numbers.

"Delivering mail was mind-boggling," recalls Camote. He proposed a scheme to number the houses but many "turf-conscious" residents put their foot down.

"Some were riled by the idea that their neighbors' homes would be numbered first, when they had settled ahead of them. They finally agreed after I explained that this was for their own good," he says.

For the next three weeks, he went from house to house, writing down numbers on doors with a marker pen. Some residents were so amazed by his idea, they offered to name an extension of a street after him, but he refused.

Good idea

In his next assignment in Bago Bantay, Quezon City, Camote encountered the same problem.

"The letter carriers feared going into this territory so they would leave their bag of mail at the store. The snatchers, the pickpockets, they're all over the place. In my first forays, somebody sneaked up and snatched a letter. Another brandished a knife at me. But I was never harmed," he says.

He noticed that most of the letters left at the store remained uncollected. Camote again proposed his scheme. With the help of barangay officials, he was able to convince residents to allow him to write numbers on their doors.

Camote, his chief and his colleagues introduced the same system in Barangay Pagasa, which is another community of informal settlers across the Philippine Science High School on Agham Road.

Here, they named some streets after themselves. They were able to deliver mail efficiently which ended the practice of some residents who delivered mail for a fee.

Camote Street

"The day we got mail addressed to Camote Street, I got so excited I delivered the mail myself," the letter-carrier says, chuckling.

By doing his job, Camote, who is married with three children, believes he is able to impart the value of "accepting letters."

"One time I delivered a subpoena, but this guy rejected it. I warned him that after rejecting it thrice, he'd get a warrant. I never saw him for a month. The next time I bumped into him, he told me he should have heeded my advice. It turned out he was jailed for a month for robbery and hold-up," he says.

Close ties

To this day, Camote motors to Bago Bantay to deliver mail between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. In the afternoon, he wears the cap of a liaison officer, and delivers documents to the central post office in Manila.

He used to report for work even on weekends to deliver mail.

Despite his meager income, he doesn't see himself changing jobs in the next 10 years in spite of the Internet and the popularity of e-mail.

"Nothing beats letters. When you read letters, you feel the emotions," he says. "In a letter, you can write everything you feel and it doesn't cost much. It's just a little slow."

After 13 years of delivering snail mail, Camote has established close ties with the community and is treated like one of the family.

Winning song

He is invited to lunch after delivering an important letter from abroad. He even gets presents during the holiday season. Some of the residents are so close to him, they ask him to mail their letters.

"I enjoy my job so much. I've never felt this way in my previous jobs," says Camote, who composed "Buhay Kartero," an inspirational song about a mailman's dedication to his work.

He performs the song and other compositions with Heber Bartolome's Banyuhay every Tuesday night at the Conspiracy Bar in Quezon City.

"I think I won the award (Dangal ng Bayan) because of that song," he says referring to "Buhay Kartero" which won for him a prize from PhilPost a few years ago. "It captures the noble spirit of a mailman who risks life and limb to do his job."

Missing Filipino masterpiece found at last

From page A1

at UP, the National Teachers' College, and other schools.

From 79 countries

In 1939, Thomas J. Watson, founder of International Business Machines (IBM), conceived the idea of holding an international art competition at the Golden Gate Exposition in San Francisco, California.

He sent his representative, Kevin Mallen, to 79 countries all over the world to scout for entries.

In Manila, Mallen visited Dizon at his residence on 1111 A. Mabini Street, to take a look at "After the Day's Toil."

Mallen purchased the painting for IBM immediately after seeing it, and had it framed and shipped to the United States.

It was included in the International Competition on Contemporary Art of 79 Nations at the Golden Gate Exposition.

In that historic competition, "After the Day's Toil" won first place by popular vote. The entry of Spain by Dali won second place, and that of the United States won third.

Utrillo's entry did not win.

Pacific unity

The inscription on the winner's medal reads: "Unity of the Pacific nations is America's concern and responsibility. San Francisco stands at the doorway to the sea that roars upon the shores of all these nations; and so to the Golden Gate International Exposition I gladly entrust a solemn duty. May this, America's world's fair on the Pacific in 1939, truly serve all nations.—President Franklin D. Roosevelt"

The Golden Gate Exposition was held in celebration of San Francisco's two new bridges.

San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and the Golden Gate Bridge were dedicated on Nov. 12, 1936, and May 27, 1937, respectively.

The exposition ran from Feb. 18 to Oct. 29 in 1939, and from May 25 to Sept. 29 in 1940.

Malate-born

Vicente Alvarez Dizon, son of Jose Sampedro Dizon of Bacolor, Pampanga, and Rosa Carlos Alvarez of Concepcion, Tarlac, was born in Malate on April 5, 1905.

The elder Dizon, an 1897 graduate of the University of Santo Tomas, was a landscape artist and botanist-agronomist at the Bureau of Agriculture.

In the course of his work, he was assigned to such places as Capas in Tarlac, Magalang in Pampanga, and Cabanatuan in Nueva Ecija.

The young Vicente had his early schooling at the Malate Primary School, and continued his intermediate studies in the towns where his father was assigned.

The father wanted his son to study medicine. The latter obeyed, and attended the National University College of Medicine in 1921-23.

Dizon later transferred to the UP School of Fine Arts, where he took a five-year course and graduated with an art diploma in 1928. After graduation, he became the

THE PAINTER, Vicente Alvarez Dizon, at his studio in Yale, New Haven, Connecticut, 1936.

first artist-lecturer of the Philippines.

He is among the first Filipinos to win important scholarships abroad, such as that awarded him by the Federal Schools of Art in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

On his own, he applied for, and was granted, a scholarship at Yale.

Honors

In 1936, during his stay at Yale, Dizon became the first Filipino to be elected one of the 12 members of the "Yale Phi Alpha." (Only 12 members were elected each year from more than 300 students.)

It was also at Yale that he painted "After the Day's Toil" as his thesis.

Because of his studiousness, Dizon was given assignments during summer. Thus, after only one-and-a-half (instead of three) years of study, he graduated on June 7, 1936, with a bachelor's degree in fine arts (with distinction).

He specialized in painting, mural decoration, general art education, composition, and museum administration.

Art education pioneer

On his return to his motherland, Dizon continued to teach, and came to be considered the pioneer of art education in the Philippines.

He introduced the art of finger painting, and was invited to lecture on and demonstrate the new medium and technique in Manila and Central Luzon.

He conducted the famous "Chalk Talk" lectures, where someone from the audience would be asked to draw a form or line on the blackboard, which he would then transform into a recognizable object or figure.

Dizon was a faculty member of the UP School of Fine Arts where he lectured on history of art (1940-47), and of the UP College of Education, where he also lectured on art and interior decoration (1946-47).

Likewise, he was an associate professor in painting and theory of arts.

In 1938, he was appointed member of the UP School of Fine Arts' alumni committee for reorganization. He was also an artist and historical consultant in the US Army, 5th Air Force Command at Clark Field (February to August 1945).

He was as well a full professor of art at the Mapua Institute of Technology (1937-41).

War paintings

During the war years, Dizon secretly started recording life in those difficult times.

He completed 30 colorful and dramatic war paintings, which he titled "From Japanese Invasion to American Liberation, As My Brush Saw It."

He also wrote two books—"Art Education and Appreciation," which saw publication, and "Living As An Art."

Dizon was married to Ma. Ines Lutgarda S. Henson of Angeles, Pampanga.

The union was blessed with four children—the twins Victor and Daniel, Luminoso and Josefina.

Daniel and Josefina (Josie) became professional artists.

Early in 1947, while in the process of reorganizing the UP School of Fine Arts, Dizon fell seriously ill.

He died on Oct. 19 of the same year at the young age of 42.

The author is the daughter of the artist Vicente Alvarez Dizon.

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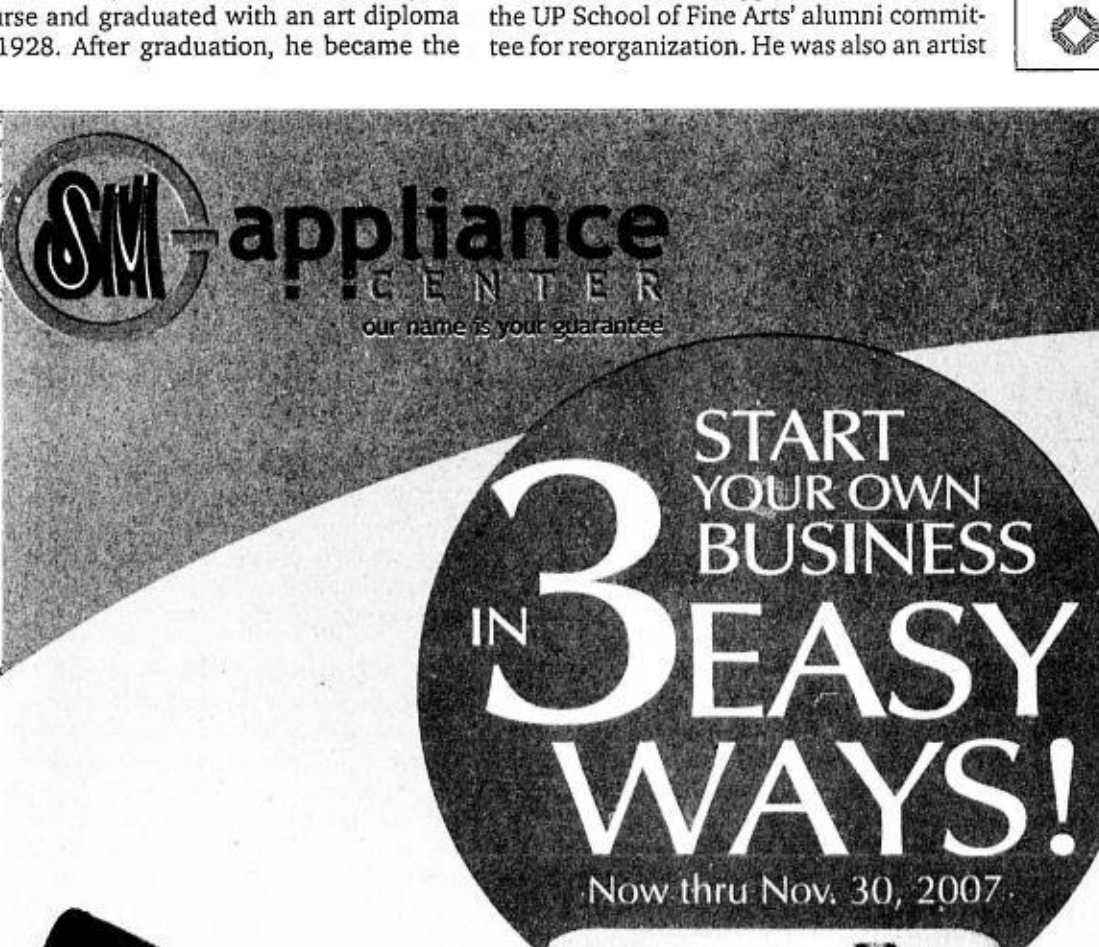

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OPINION

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Squid tactics

EDITORIAL

LATE FRIDAY AFTERNOON, WITHOUT ANY FANfare (a curious thing in itself, considering how lawyers and politicians can be so publicity-hungry), an impeachment case against the President was filed in the House of Representatives. The lawyer who filed it so discreetly, Ruel Pulido, had filed an ethics complaint against Speaker Jose de Venecia with a great deal of panache; this time around, Pulido filed his brief, three-page complaint as everyone else was winding down their day's affairs. And it was immediately endorsed by Rep. Edgar San Luis, who'd last gained public exposure trying to corral young congressmen into supporting the Kampi bid to oust De Venecia as Speaker last July. Nominally an independent, San Luis, according to fellow representatives, attends Kampi meetings.

At the heart of the complaint, which is so brief as to eerily remind us of the ones filed by Oliver Lozano in the past, is an allegation that President Macapagal-Arroyo was told by Romulo Neri of a bribe offer. The timing of the complaint, and its contents, which seem to mention the Speaker more than the President, coincided with the President's issuance of a statement for the record (for the first time) that Neri had indeed informed her of the bribe attempt. These are coincidences as mind-boggling as the excuses given by the officials who were invited to—or "found themselves" attending—those ZTE-related meetings in Wack Wack.

The House has yet to approve the impeachment rules for the 14th Congress. With Rep. Matias Defensor as chair of the Committee on Justice, any impeachment complaint can easily bog down in a swamp of lawyerly debate, which might provide public entertainment but also distract the citizenry from the real issue at hand. Which is the Senate's far-from-concluded investigation into the NBN-ZTE mess. And the real public purpose that still needs to be achieved is determining which officials acted properly and improperly and why President Arroyo reversed her own policy on a national broadband amid allegations of bribery—which is covered by the Senate's oversight duties; and then, determining whether flawed legislation made the whole mess possible—which is part of the Senate's legislative inquiry functions.

There are questions, too, concerning what transpired in the Senate's executive session in which former Neda Director General Romulo Neri (now CHEd chair) was supposed to have been given the chance to explain why he had invoked executive privilege. He never got to it—from what the public knows so far. The allegations surrounding the failure of the executive session to achieve its purposes have been used to raise questions about media's lawful right to protect their sources, thus shifting the focus away from the real issue, which is, the allegation of pressure brought by the executive department upon a witness summoned by the Senate, a clear invasion by a co-equal branch into the workings of another. Whether a senator, in effect, has been implicated in aiding and abetting executive interference further complicates the issue.

Since it has been proposed that the Senate, in the interest of its institutional independence, should get to the bottom of the allegations, and since Neri himself may not have even disclosed anything because the disclosure was made impossible by pressure being brought to bear by a Cabinet member, the Senate, not the media, holds the key. It can vote to allow every senator present to disclose what really transpired. And it begins with the senators figuring out if, legally speaking, an executive session even really transpired.

And then, there is the question of whether executive privilege can be used as a means of enabling officials to thwart Congress' duties or, possibly, to obstruct justice, hide crimes and cover up misdemeanors.

Executive Order 464 covering civilian officials, now has a counterpart covering the military—Administrative Order 197. The President has made a categorical statement to the effect that her subordinates will be invoking the notorious EO 464 in future Senate inquiries. We can confidently predict AO 197 will be used to similar ill-effect by the AFP brass. Even administration ally Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago has said that she expects this will end up in a case before the Supreme Court—the same place any challenge to invocations of executive privilege in Senate inquiries should end up.

The Senate must not shrink from a showdown with the President on this score.

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Resignation as a way out

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

RESIGNATION IS ONE OF THE MODES OF terminating official relations defined as a formal act of renunciation, coupled with the physical relinquishment of the office, subject to acceptance by superior authorities. It is different from abandonment, which is less formal, does not need the consent of higher authorities, and may be the result of non-user of the office or neglect in defending the right to it.

Resignation is usually voluntary, caused by physical disability, failure or difficulty in discharging the work involved, inadequate compensation, personal or official conflict with the higher-ups, incompatibility with fellow workers, or moral distaste with the office itself or the conditions for its performance.

But there are times when it is practically compelled, as where it is used to soften a disgraceful removal based on a valid ground such as commission of a crime, immorality, inefficiency, serious error, or political indiscretion. It may also include loss of confidence in the targeted official due to a personal dislike for sundry and even trivial reasons like, say, the way he combs his hair.

Prime Minister Tony Blair resigned because of public dissatisfaction with his support of President George W. Bush's unpopular policies on Iraq. The unanswerable insult was that he was Dubya's "poodle." The less sensitive Bush prefers to take his arrant stand in the battered bastion of the White House against the slings and arrows of the outraged world.

Karl Rove, his close friend and political tactician, resigned last August because of his involvement in the Plame espionage affair. Alberto Gonzales, also a loyal lackey, quit as attorney general for his removal of several Justice lawyers on questionable political grounds. Another Republican, Sen. Larry Craig, lost face and his office for alleged lewd conduct in a public toilet.

In Japan, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe gave up his post after election reverses, financial scandals and successive resignations from his Cabinet. Last February, the prime minister of Italy resigned when he lost a foreign policy vote in the Senate. Successive resignations have rocked the government of Iraq since its invasion by the United States in 2003.

President Richard M. Nixon's resignation in 1974 was a desperate decision to avoid his inevitable removal in the impeachment proceedings against him. Our own Supreme Court held that President Joseph Estrada also resigned to escape the wrath of Edsa 2 in 2001 although he insisted that he had left his official residence merely to rest in his house in San Juan.

Since assuming office after Erap, President Macapagal-Arroyo has doggedly resisted indignant demands for her resignation. Even the mass pullout of 10 of her Cabinet members and the Hello, Garci scandal which have sorely blemished her integrity have not persuaded her to leave Malacañang voluntarily. It is said that she was on the verge of doing so in 2004 but was, unfortunately, dissuaded by President Fidel Ramos.

Her present cohorts in the comforts of the Cabinet are equally determined to ignore public denunciation of their effrontery. Power is an addictive adhesive. They will not follow their leader's own pragmatic example when she deserted Erap's Cabinet in 2001 as his ship of state continued to sink. They are in fact cajoling her to stay so they can themselves continue to stay with her; they know that once she's out, so too will they be kaput.

Resignations from our Congress are usually made to accept more attractive positions elsewhere. Such moves, often for private benefit or ambition, leave the elective constituents unrepresented. Alfredo Lim was considered resigned from the Senate when he was elected and assumed his old office as mayor of Manila. But Lito Lapid was correct, alas, when he said he could still remain in the Senate when he ran for mayor of Makati and lost.

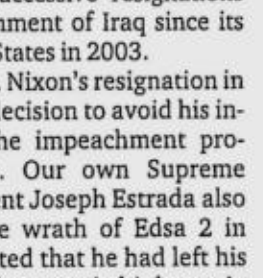
In the Judiciary, even disreputable members brazen it out until they reach retirement age and can enjoy generous pensions. Promotional by-passing has received different reactions. Senior Associate Justice Florentino Torres of the Supreme Court resigned out of *amor propio* when former Justice Victorino Mapa was called back from the Cabinet to succeed Chief Justice Cayetano Arellano in 1920. Presiding Justice Pompeyo Diaz did likewise when a junior colleague on the Court of Appeals preceded him to the Supreme Court in 1954.

But Justice Claudio Teehankee stayed put when he was bypassed twice as Chief Justice in 1985, first in favor of Justice Felix V. Makasiar and later of Justice Ramon C. Aquino. Justice Reynato C. Puno did not complain when Justice Artemio V. Panganiban was appointed ahead of him two years ago. Both Teehankee and Puno were later honored with the top position, which they conceded was not covered by the next-in-rank rule.

The resignation of Benjamin Abalos from the Commission on Elections has heightened public impatience with President Arroyo's graft-driven administration. The talk now is that her real reason for aborting the malodorous $329-million NBN deal was to prevent revelation of its sordid link to Malacañang, especially her. This may yet be the straw—or boulder—that will break the camel's back.

Unworthy servants

MOMENTS



Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

GALILEO, GREAT MIND; EINSTEIN, GENIUS mind; Newton, extraordinary mind; Bill Gates, brilliant mind; You and me? Never mind! As long as we're not unkind!

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 17, 5-10) Jesus does not belittle littleness. "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea' and it would obey you." In fact, Jesus reminds us today that our worth is not in our achievements and possessions, but in our being servants however unworthy we are. Again and again, Jesus reminds us that God has a hard time dealing with those who are big, or those who think big, or who think of themselves big.

* * *

They say that when God looks at a person, he covers one of His eyes so that He can overlook the negative in that person, and sees only the positive. Yes, God sees and accentuates the positive. In contrast, whenever we look at others, we have the tendency to see the negative. In fact, we do not cover one eye to overlook the negative, we even use magnifying glasses to see the negative in others! God appreciates every little faith and goodness in a person's heart.

* * *

Recently, I met a young man who prided himself as a "rationalist," and, being such, did not have much room for God and faith in his life. I listened to his heroic assertions, but also reminded him that youth, money and power can blind a person to the reality of our dependence on God. It's just that I have seen so many roaring lions become meek lambs when their youth, power, wealth, or health are gone. Such is the fate of those who belittle faith.

* * *

"More prayers, more faith." This is a very good advice for those who think that what they need in life is more work and more money. When will we learn that work is never done, and that money is never enough? May we not learn too late that we pursued the wrong things and stressed the wrong values in our lives. All we are saying is: "Give faith a chance."

* * *

In this world, there are servants and there are masters, but in God's eyes we are all servants. Problems arise when some people think that they are grand masters, or worse, think of themselves as gods! "Let man be man. Let God be God." We've said it before, and we'll say it again: "There is a God, and you're not Him!"

* * *

To the masters who become monsters to the "little ones" in our midst, please remember the Lord's reprimand on final judgement: "Whatever you did to the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it unto me." To them we say: "Back off from your pride, from your greed, from your lust, from your follies!"

* * *

How do we treat our helpers and employees? Someone once said that one gauge of how well we are treating them is when they stay long with us. If no helper stays long with you, maybe it is because they can't stand you, or maybe you can't stand them. But my guess is more of the former.

* * *

I've seen it often enough: A *señora* shouting at the drivers and the maids, and so sweet when talking to her pet dog. Remember: Shout at animals; talk to people.

* * *

I've seen it also often enough how some people put value more on their possessions than on the people around them. We should stop treating people as if they are disposable commodities. Remember: Use things; love people. Not vice versa.

* * *

Let us not be complacent; neither should we take pride in our achievements. In the end, we must be humble and acknowledge God as our Master, and accept that whatever goodness we have done was made possible by God's grace. We must learn to trust more in God's mercy, and less on our own efforts. We all are just unworthy servants.

* * *

Think about it: At the end of our lives, the question will not be how much we've amassed, but how much we have given; not how much we have won, but how much we have tried; not how much we have preserved, but how much we have sacrificed; not how much honors we have received, but how much service we have given.

* * *

"Servanthood" is something that our so-called "public servants" need to be reminded of again and again. For most of them, servanthood is a reality only during the campaign period, but once they are elected, they make servants out of the poor public that elected them.

* * *

October is the month of the rosary. Carry the rosary with you. Pray the rosary everyday. Pray the rosary as a family. Pray the rosary with the heart, and not hurriedly.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me that you alone are the Master, and I am just an unworthy servant. Amen.

Choosing credible Comelec leaders

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

THE RESIGNATION OF BENJAMIN ABALOS SR. highlights the need for a new credible head of the Commission on Elections. Aside from the chair, however, there is another vacancy in the seven-member commission. And come Feb. 2, 2008, two more commissioners (Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason) will retire, thereby presaging a full leadership change.

Some preliminaries. At the outset, let me tackle a few housekeeping legalities. Sec. 2 of Article IX (C) of the Constitution says, "Appointment to any vacancy (in the Comelec) shall be only for the unexpired term of the predecessor." So, an appointee to the chairmanship **now** will hold office only until Feb. 2, 2008 when Abalos' original term expires. The chair to be appointed **after** Feb. 2 shall serve the regular term of seven years, from 2008 to 2015. Nonetheless, the chair who may be named **now** cannot be reappointed to the seven-year term beginning in February 2008 because the Constitution bars "re-appointments."

For the same reason, none of the present commissioners can be appointed chair ("Matibag vs Benipayo," Apr. 2, 2002). In the meantime however, the incumbent members may designate one from among themselves to be an "officer in charge," as they have already done.

Note that the incumbent commissioners shall select the officer in charge. The authority of the President to name, with the consent of the Comelec, the chair and the commissioners does not include "acting" or "temporary" appointments. "In no case," declares the Constitution, "shall any Member be appointed or designated in a temporary or acting capacity." In "Brillantes vs Yorac," (Dec. 18, 1990), the Supreme Court nullified appointments "that are revocable at will," because they undermine the independence of constitutional commissions.

Nevertheless, the President can immediately fill up the commissionership that became vacant in February last year. The appointee shall hold office only until February 2013, not for the full seven years. "Gaminde vs Commission on Audit" (Dec. 13, 2000) ruled that the **tenure** of the commissioners shall expire at the end of the seven-year **term** "regardless of the dates of their appointments."

Ideal poll officials. When fully constituted, the Comelec should have a chair and six commissioners who must all be (1) natural-born citizens; (2) at least 35 years old; (3) college degree holders; and (4) must not have been candidates in the last elections. Moreover, a majority of the commissioners "including the chairman" shall be lawyers who have been engaged in law practice for at least 10 years.

The Comelec has been granted the "exclusive original" power to decide "all contests relating to the elections, returns, and qualifications of all elective regional, provincial and city officials." Moreover, its decisions regarding appeals of lower court judgments involving municipal and barangay elections are final. **In short, the Comelec performs critical judicial functions; thus, its members—especially its chair—must possess the constitutional qualifications of judges, namely "proven competence, integrity, probity and independence."**

Equally important, the Comelec has been mandated to "enforce and administer" all election laws. Thus, its commissioners—again, especially its chair—must also be capable executives and visionary leaders. It is very difficult to find a person who possesses the qualities of both a judge and a leader. A jurist is a loner—cold, stoic, unreachable and unfathomable; a perceptive thinker and an ingenious writer, who composes **personally** all his or her decisions.

In contrast, a leader/executive is an incandescent team player who is versed in people skills; a consensus builder who systematically delegates authority and responsibility. A jurist is a recluse who meticulously follows precedents; who would rather play solitaire than toast cocktails or swing in ballrooms; a leader is an action person who innovates, re-engineers and reinvents new and better ways to propel an organization towards its vision, mission and core values.

Transparent process. The viability of our democracy depends on a credible Comelec led by an incorruptible chair and commissioners. To stress, these officials are rare, for they are both judges and leaders at the same time. And naming them becomes even more delicate due to the political pressures that bedevil the process and the choices.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is of course the indispensable player in choosing them. The integrity of the process and the quality of her choices will be her lasting legacy to democracy. Credible appointees will, I am sure, elevate her public trust rating, which per the latest SWS survey is now a dismal negative 11.

For the country's sake and also for hers, the appointment process should be transparent, and participated in by the poll watch groups that have sacrificed their time, talents and treasures in the name of free elections. They should be invited to nominate candidates, to scrutinize their credentials, and in general, to monitor the process.

Before she exits in 2010, GMA would have named all seven members of the Comelec, including the three incumbents (Romeo Brawner, Rene Sarmiento and Nicodemo Ferrer) whom she appointed earlier. Will she bequeath to the nation an independent, competent and trustworthy Comelec that will finally reform and automate our archaic electoral system, and conduct credible, speedy and peaceful elections?

* * *

Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

Pity Teri Hatcher

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

POOR TERI HATCHER! DESPITE THE APOLOGY from ABC and the producers of "Desperate Housewives," as well as the reasoned observations of many that Hatcher, after all, is only an actor and was just mouthing those offensive lines in her show's season premiere, her life will be hell from now on.

From hereon, Hatcher can't undergo a medical procedure, take a cab, or eat in a restaurant without wondering if her test hasn't been botched intentionally, her driver hasn't deliberately taken the longer route, or the cook or waiter hasn't spit in her soup. Considering how many Filipino-Americans there are, and how concentrated they are in the West Coast, it will be difficult for Hatcher—because she is so prominent—to tell if the person she is dealing with is of Filipino descent—or married to someone who is.

For the longest time, Filipino-Americans were in fact called a "model minority," mainly because it was difficult to tell Filipinos apart from the rest of the US population, save perhaps for the color of their skin and, for recent migrants, their accented English. Unlike, say, the Chinese or Koreans, who tended to live and work together in enclaves where they were visible not just because of their features, but by the proliferation of store signs in "strange" and "different" alphabets, Filipinos in America were quickly absorbed into the general population. In no time at all, they could be expected to drop the accent and even look, dress and behave like the average American. And because of notoriously fractious relations among Filipino migrants who tended to group themselves into regional affiliations, it was difficult to unite the community, much less get them to act together on a single cause or issue.

* * *

SO if we're looking for the "silver lining" behind the entire brouhaha over that infamous "I just want to make sure they are not from some med school in the Philippines" line, it may be that it has, for once, united the Fil-Am community. It ignited outrage and provoked protests from consulates, the Philippine government, and thousands of Fil-Ams and Filipinos who wrote ABC or else affixed their signatures to online petitions.

It's difficult, after all, to buy ABC's line that the producers and scriptwriters of "Desperate Housewives" didn't mean any slur on a particular nation or race by that line. If they didn't really believe, or didn't think that the TV audience believed, that the Philippines produces fake or incompetent doctors, then they wouldn't have used that line at all. They could have Hatcher just say "from some med school in a third-rate country" and nobody would have been offended, except perhaps citizens who think their country is third-rate.

That the insult should have been aimed at Filipino medical practitioners is doubly ironic, since, as the online petition circulated by Kevin Nadal, a performance artist in the United States, Filipinos make for a considerable "presence" in the health care industry. "Filipinos are the second largest immigrant population in the United States, with many entering the US and passing their US licensing boards as doctors, nurses and medical technicians."

If Americans don't trust doctors, nurses or lab personnel trained in the Philippines, then they should stop poaching our shores for the best and the brightest graduates and practitioners. And if skin color and country of origin were so important for them, then they should push their children to go to med or nursing school, instead of relying on migrants from poor countries to fill up the yawning personnel gap in their health care industry.

* * *

BUT while it's good to finally find an issue around which Fil-Ams and Filipinos could get over their differences and finally unite, it's also important to stress the need for some perspective on the issue.

"Desperate Housewives" was originally conceived as a satire, poking fun at the seemingly placid lives of middle-class married American women who all hid terrible secrets and shameful foibles behind their manicured lawns and well-behaved children. It found a place on network prime time only when its creators sold it to executives as a "soap opera," though it had a sardonic, humorous edge that soaps rarely employ.

In the course of three (?) seasons, "DH" has poked fun at Latinos (larcenous, randy and hypocritically Catholic), African-Americans (criminal-minded), and Chinese (ignorant but grasping). But even as it offended ethnic groups with racial stereotypes, it also didn't pull any punches with their white characters, who are variously obsessive-compulsive, sexually predatory, murderous or just stupid. As one online commentator said, the producers of "DH" must be tickled pink by all the (warranted, provoked) attention. And just when interest in the show was waning!

* * *

AS I write this, there's another "slur" on American TV that's got us Pinoys all riled up. "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" is being castigated for showing a picture of Cory Aquino supposedly wearing a T-shirt bearing the word "slut," as part of a pseudo-story on how former women presidents are faring.

I love our Tita Cory, but really, if you can't laugh at a skit on "The Daily Show," then your sense of humor needs some working on!

There's a song on the Broadway play "Avenue Q" titled "Everyone's a Little Bit Racist," and it elicits laughs because it exposes an uncomfortable truth about human nature, but especially about members of minority cultures who can be among the most racist in a multi-racial society. One of the show's writers is "three-eighths Filipino," so before we call for a boycott, why don't we take a look at ourselves, at how "a little bit racist" we can sometimes be?

A tale of two dictatorships

WORLD VIEW

Kishore Mahbubani

BURMA (MYANMAR) AND PAKISTAN ARE BOTH Asian countries whose military rulers are in trouble. But they are heading in opposite directions. Whereas Pakistan understands why Asia is rising, Burma does not.

Asia is rising because Asian countries are increasingly opening their doors to modernity. Starting with Japan, this modernizing wave has swept through the four "Asian Tigers" (South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore), to some Asean countries (Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam), and then to China and India. Now, it is moving into Pakistan and West Asia.

I was in Pakistan during one of its more exciting weeks. Exiled former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif sought to return, but was promptly sent back into exile. The world expected a political eruption. Instead, the country carried on calmly.

Pakistan did not erupt because Pakistan's elite is focused on modernization. Led by Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, who was formerly with Citibank, the country has carried out dramatic structural reforms, matching best practices in leading emerging-market economies. This explains the high economic growth rates.

Pakistan has welcomed foreign trade and investment. And, just as the success of overseas Indians in America inspired Indians in India, Pakistan stands to similarly benefit from its own successful diaspora.

But this opening to modernity extends beyond economics and finance. Yes, thousands of madrasas remain open and Islamic fundamentalism is strong. But this has not completely changed the fundamental texture of Pakistan's society.

One sight at LUMS, a leading private university in Lahore, heartened me: how women were dressed. When I visited Malaysian campuses as a young man in the 1960s, few Malay Muslim women wore the *hijab*. Today, on the same campuses, almost all do. By contrast, at LUMS (which has the look and feel of Harvard Business School), only about 5 percent of female students wore the *hijab*, a remarkable expression of social freedom.

There has also been an explosion of free media in Pakistan. An astonishing number of Pakistani TV stations openly discuss the activities of Sharif and the other exiled former prime minister, Benazir Bhutto. Indeed, many elements of an open society are in place, including—as the world learned in March—an independent judiciary.

Burma, by contrast, broadcasts no information on the dissident Aung San Suu Kyi, and would never allow the reinstatement of a chief justice fired by its generals, as Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf did in March, let alone demonstrations in the streets in the chief justice's favor.

Of course, there is much silent resentment about the enormous political and economic space occupied by the Pakistan military, and a danger of a backlash if the military does not learn to share more space with civil society. I met many retired army generals occupying key posts. Fortunately, they seemed to have a temperament closer to Colin Powell's than to either Than Shwe or Maung Aye, the two closed military minds who have cut off Burma from the world.

America's decision to engage, rather than isolate, Pakistan has also helped. I have no doubt that closer American re-engagement helped to nudge Pakistan in the right direction. Many members of Pakistan's elite have been educated in American universities—another leading indicator of a country's orientation. Just imagine how different international relations would be if American leaders could visit Burma (or even Iran) with equal ease and have friendly discussions about agreements and disagreements.

Burma's generals deserve to be condemned for their brutal crackdown on civilian protestors and Buddhist monks. The Western world will rush to demand more sanctions and more isolation. But to what avail? Burma has effectively isolated itself for more than 50 years. What can more isolation achieve?

A courageous Western leader might confront Burma's leaders with a threat that would really frighten them: deeper engagement. Burma's generals genuinely believe that they are protecting Burmese "purity" by shutting out the world. Imagine the impact if as many Burmese generals visited America as Pakistani generals do. A brave young Burmese intellectual, Thant Myint-U (the grandson of former United Nations Secretary General U Thant) asks, "What outside pressure can bring about democratic change? And why, after nearly two decades of boycotts, aid cutoffs, trade bans, and diplomatic condemnation, are Myanmar's generals apparently more in charge than ever before?"

I was in Pakistan as a state guest. But my real mission was to reconnect with my ethnic Sindhi roots, as I had never visited the country where my parents were born. Only those who understand the pain of the partition of British India in 1947 will appreciate the powerful symbolism of a child of Hindu parents being welcomed back warmly to Muslim Pakistan. Those cultural ties helped me understand the Urdu and Sindhi being spoken, and also to feel the deep urge to modernize in the Pakistani soul—an urge that exists alongside the urge to reconnect with Pakistan's rich cultural past.

I left Pakistan feeling hopeful, because I saw the strong desire to join today's rising Asia. If a similar impulse could be implanted into Burma, both its people and the world would benefit.

Project Syndicate

Kishore Mahbubani is dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. His latest book "The New Asian Hemisphere: The Irresistible Shift of Asian Power to the East" will be published next year.

And so they die

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

THERE WAS A KNOCK. WHEN SHE OPENED THE DOOR, armed men entered the house. One of them was shouting, commanding the others, "Enter!" and to her family, "Lie down!"

"All of us lay down," said Sonia Santa Rosa in a Human Rights Watch interview. "They pointed guns at our heads—a short firearm. After five minutes they brought my husband to the room of my younger daughter .... They asked him if he was Elmer. My husband did not answer. Then he answered, 'I am not Elmer. You can even verify, look at my ID.'

"We don't know who Elmer is. We've never heard the name before."

At the time, she was comforting her four children, all of whom were crying. One of the men told them that they would not be harmed if they followed orders. The armed men searched the house, took with them a laptop, a printer, a bag of her husband's personal belongings, cash, cell phones, and a samurai knife displayed on the wall.

"My husband was dragged out and all the men left. Knowing that the group had fled, I went outside to get the help of neighbors. I shouted 'Help! Help!' Many neighbors came here, gathered here, and then we heard nine gunshots, five minutes after my husband was dragged out of the house."

It was around 8 p.m. of Aug. 3, 2006. The body of Pastor Isias de Leon Santa Rosa, Sonia's husband, was found at a ditch leading down into a stream, and he was not alone. According to the police report, a second body was found, a man wearing a *balaclava* over his face. The police found a .45 caliber Llama pistol and a magazine loaded with six bullets by the body. The body was identified by a brown wallet containing an Armed Forces of the Philippines identification card, serial number 850278. His name was Cpl. Lordger Pastrana.

Pastrana carried a mission order from the headquarters of the 9th Military Intelligence Battalion. His destination was Region 4, 5 and 6. The purpose of the mission was "SECRET." Signed by commanding officer Maj. Ernest Marc P. Rosal, the order authorized him to carry a .45 caliber Llama pistol from July 1, 2006 until Sept. 30, 2006. Pastor Santa Rosa's brother confirmed to Human Rights Watch that the body belonged to one of the men who entered their house. The dead man was the one that the rest of the men called "Sir." Evidence points to this man being shot accidentally.

According to a July 2007 report, the police had filed a murder complaint against two army majors and 10 soldiers for the killing in May 2007, but the case has not moved forward and most of the troops allegedly involved are still on duty.

Pastor Santa Rosa's story is only one of the dozens documented by Human Rights Watch between September and November 2006. According to their 84-page report, most of the cases that police claim have been solved are not. Perpetrators are either declared NPA (New People's Army) with little evidence, or named John Doe. In some cases, investigators have produced cartographical sketches of suspects that none of the witnesses saw during the murders. There is little attempt to provide evidence and basic information necessary to bring them to court. As of March 2007, no military individual has yet been convicted.

According to Human Rights Watch, "the armed forces indicate that they believe that just 12 accusations have been made against specific individual officers and enlisted personnel of the AFP. Out of these 12 cases, three cases have charges pending, five have been settled, acquitted, or dismissed by the DOJ [Department of Justice], and four cases still remain 'under investigation.'"

The police, it appears, have either abetted the failure of investigations, or have simply given up due to lack of military cooperation. The mother of victim Maricel Vigo tells the story of how the local police fooled her into signing a complaint against a suspect pinpointed by the police. The woman could not speak English. Two policemen went to her home and told her to go to the police station to sign an affidavit. All they told her was that it would verify that Maricel and husband George were her children. The affidavit was in English, the last paragraph stating that it was a complaint directly accusing the police's choice suspect.

"When I realized from my daughter what I had been made to sign, I got so mad and angry, and I was crying," she lamented. The case has been deemed "solved" since June 23, 2006, one short week after the couple was killed, when a criminal complaint was filed before the city prosecutor's office against an alleged former member of the NPA and three "John Does."

The case of Jonas Burgos, whose face has been splashed on newspaper front pages, activist placards and online blogs, is one whose evidence appears to point to direct military responsibility. His mother successfully pleaded for a Court of Appeals order to compel the AFP to release the Provost Marshal General's report that might help in the search for her missing son. The court denied the AFP's motion for reconsideration, saying that the military's excuse of confidentiality was a mere "afterthought" intended to evade the subpoena.

The AFP, however, refused to release the report. They claim that it would be in violation of their Circular No. 78, which regulates the release of classified documents.

On Sept. 25, a little more than a week ago, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued Administrative Order No. 197, directing the Department of National Defense and the AFP to draft a bill aimed at putting in place "safeguards" against the "disclosure of military secrets" and "undue interference in military operations inimical to national security."

There have been many moves to end the spate of extrajudicial executions in the country. There is no lack of media attention, although public outrage appears to be wearing thin with every new death and disappearance. Witnesses and families have confessed to threats and harassment. Revolutionary moves and strong language by the courts appear to have little effect, and it remains to be seen whether the brave men who lead the AFP will accept the civilian court as a higher authority.

And while we wait, Jonas Burgos waits too, possibly being tortured, possibly in agony. Provost Marshal General Col. Arthur Abadilla still refuses to release his report. "I don't think I can take the risk. We are bound by the circular."

What, after all, is a human life to that?

* * *

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Balanoi (sweet basil)

Ocimum basilicum L.

Coughs and dizziness

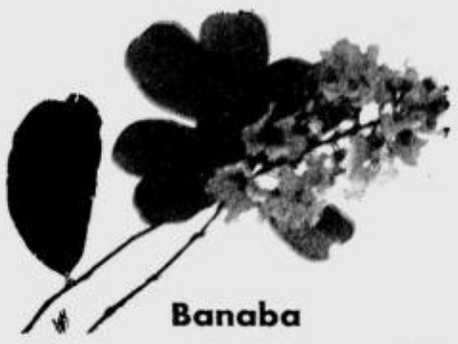
● **Preparation and use:** For dizziness, crush enough fresh leaves with your fingers and sniff them. As a decoction for cough, boil eight tablespoons of fresh leaves in two glasses of water for 15 minutes or until the liquid is reduced to half. Divide the decoction into eight parts and take one part, three times a day.

Oregano (broad leaf thyme)

Coleus amboinicus Lour.

Respiratory ailments like cough, asthma and bronchitis

● **Preparation and use:** Squeeze juice of the leaves. Take one teaspoon every hour for adults. For children above 2 years old, 3 to 4 teaspoons a day.

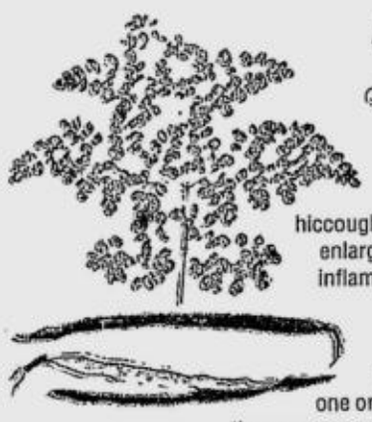


Banaba

Lagerstroemia speciosa L.

Abdominal pains

● **Preparation and use:** It is prepared and taken as a tea as a general tonic. Exact dosage for other uses is not yet available.

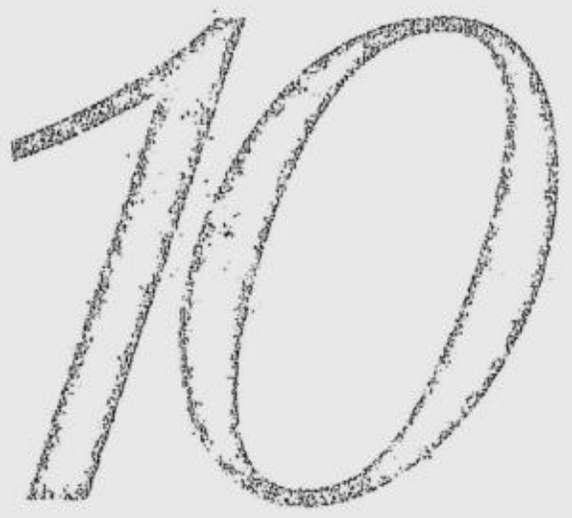


Malunggay (horse radish)

Moringa oleifera Lam.

Leaves: Good source of phosphorus, ascorbic acid, calcium and iron. As a decoction, it is used to treat hiccoughs, asthma, gout, lumbago, rheumatism, enlarged spleen or liver and other deep-seated inflammations. It can be used to clean wounds and sores.

● **Preparation and use:** To use as treatment for constipation, eat one or two cups of the cooked leaves at supper time accompanied by plenty of water. As a wound wash, apply crushed leaves directly to affected area. Be sure to maintain cleanliness throughout the procedure.



10 medicinal plants

Editor's Note: The plants shown here are the ones that Dr. Jaime Galvez-Tan wants the Department of Health to officially recognize and promote as medicinal plants.

By Monica Feria

DR. JAIME GALVEZ-TAN, FORMER DIRECTOR of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and now president of Health Futures Foundation Inc., wants Congress to allot at least P200 million—an amount touted as mere bribe money in the national broadband network deal—for the research and development of a new batch of herbal medicines.

Health research and development over the past 30 years has focused on only 10 medicinal plants. "It's time to unveil the next 10," said Galvez-Tan, adding that it takes about P20 million to complete necessary chemical and clinical tests on one plant.

Galvez-Tan, a professor at the UP College of Medicine, said he was "very disappointed" that President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address this year stressed the quest for cheaper medicines through parallel importations without complementary support for developing our own drugs, including alternative or herbal medicines.

The Philippines hosts some of the most diverse flora in the world. About 1,500 of over 13,000 plant species in the country have identified medicinal value. But it is losing out on what is now a $100-million global herbal medicine market because of the low priority given by government to medical research, Galvez-Tan said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Original 10

The original 10 medicinal plants being promoted by the Department of Health are: *lagundi* (Vitex negundo), *yerba buena* (Mentha cordifolia Opiz), *sambong* (Blumea balsamifera), *tsaang gubat* (Carmona retusa), *ampalaya* (Momordica charantia), *niyugniyogan* (Quisqualis indica), *bayabas* (Psidium guajava), *akapulko* (Cassia alata), *ulasimang bato* (Peperomia pellucida), and *bawang* (Allium sativum). Many of them are already available in commercial preparations.

Dr. Nelia Maramba, head of the National Integrated Research Program for Medicinal Plants, has published a list of 83 plants that have already passed rapid-screening tests and are awaiting more exhaustive chemical and clinical examination. The coordinating body is ready to present its suggested next 10 but is keeping the list under wraps until it is presented to the Department of Health.

A Philippine phamacopeia released in 2004 lists 30 priority "crude plant drugs" backed up by validated studies here and abroad. Excluding the first-10 DOH-approved plants, the list includes: *Dita bark, sinta* herb, *kintsay* leaf, *sampaguita* flower, ipil-ipil seeds, *makahiya* herb, *apatot* fruit, *malunggay* bark, *ikmo* leaf, *paminta*, oregano leaf, *mayana* leaf, *granada* rind, *romero* leaf, *akasya* leaf, *duhat* bark, *sampalok* pulp, *makabuhay* stem, ginger and *banaba*. The list will be updated every five years.

At the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development, the agency that coordinates and helps fund studies in alternative medicine, among many others, executive director Jaime Montoya has a list of eight new, ongoing research projects. Four involve plants on the old-10 list (*sambong, ulasimang bato, tsaang gubat* and *bayabas*) but for new uses. The other four are the golden shower tree (Kanya fistula), *saluyot, makahiya* and *guyabano*.

There are also some ongoing studies in university laboratories on *atis*, for possible biopesticide use; *gumamela*, a skin salve and rejuvenator; *alibunyog*, antibacterial; *banago*, antifungal; and *mangagaw*, a possible treatment for dengue fever, among others.

Next 10

From these lists, a colloquium of government, academic and industry players came up in 2003 with its own next-10 suggestions. Among them are *gugo*, already quite popular as a hair wash; *lawat*, another skin and hair nourisher; *gotukola*, a known rejuvenator and germicide; *siling labuyo*, an ingredient in salves to ease arthritis pain; *ilang-ilang*, a well-known fragrance; patchouli or *kabling*, another fragrance and possible hair grower; and neem, lemon grass and black pepper—all known biopesticides.

Dr. Isidro Sia, who has been given the reins of NIH's new Institute of Herbal Medicine, said the next-10 list would evolve in the coming months based on further consultations—and depending on the budget lawmakers and health officials will make available to researchers.

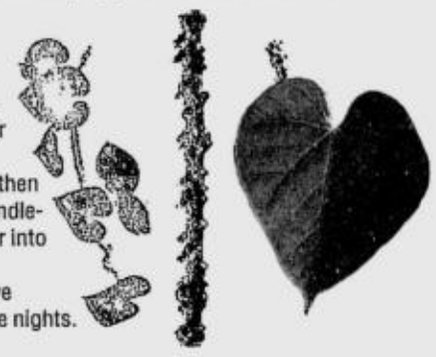
With a budget of only P8 million, he is proceeding with efforts to document all indigenous Philippine herbal preparations with the hope that these traditions will be preserved and will eventually benefit the communities themselves. New rules are being implemented to prevent biopiracy of Philippine indigenous resources, he said.

Makabuhay

Tinospora rumphi Boerl

Indigestion, diarrhea, fever, skin wounds and, as an ointment, for rheumatism. It should not be given to patients with cardiac disorders and those suffering from fever due to typhoid and pneumonia; pregnant women, children below three years old, as well as other weak individuals.

● **Preparation of ointment:** Wash and chop 1/2 glass of stem. Sauté chopped stem on low fire for about five minutes in one glass of coconut oil. Remove the stems then add half a glass of grated white candlewax. When the wax is melted, pour into clean bottle and label. Use the ointment over the whole body, save the face area, for three consecutive nights.



Balbas pusa (cat's whiskers)

Orthosiphon aristatus (Blume) Miq.

Gout and renal disorders

● **Preparation and use:** Dosage for decoction and other crude drug preparations has not yet been established.

Luyang dilaw (turmeric)

Curcuma longa L.

Wounds and swelling

● **Preparation and use:** To make an ointment, wash the ginger. There is no need to peel it. Chop the rhizomes to fill half a glass of water. Sauté with one glass of coconut oil on low heat for five minutes. Place in a clean bottle and label. To use as an antiseptic for wounds, extract juice of the fresh rhizome and apply directly on the wound or swelling. For gas pain in adults, boil a thumbsized rhizome in a glass of water until it becomes one half glass. Drink the decoction.

Tanglad (lemon grass)

Andropogon citratus DC

Stomach discomfort, toothache, sprain, vomiting and ringworm

● **Preparation and use:** To make a liniment, boil equal amounts of chopped leaves and roots with freshly made coconut oil. This can also serve as insect repellant. To make an infusion, mix four ounces of the grass to one pint of boiling water. To keep away mosquitos, plant it around your house or place crushed leaves on your window sills.

Saluyot

Corchorus capsularis L.

Chronic inflammation of urinary bladder

● **Preparation and use:** Incorporate the leaves in vegetable dishes and soups. Dosage for decoction and other crude drug preparations has not yet been established.

ILO WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Takip kuhol (Asiatic pennywort)

Centella asiatica L.

Wounds and skin sores

Preparation and use: The sap of the leaves is used on wounds and skin sores. Rich in Vitamin B, it can be eaten as a salad or vegetable dish. Dosage for specific conditions not yet available.

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Just because it's 'natural' doesn't mean it's safe

THIS HAS BEEN SAID MANY times, but Dr. Isidro Sia believes it needs to be said again and again: Herbs can be harmful if you take the wrong dosage, and if proper and hygienic preparation methods are not followed. It is best to use medicinal plants under the guidance of a trained health worker.

Sia is reluctant to give out the uses of medicinal plants that are still undergoing safety and efficacy tests. He notes that a number of people who read about a study on a certain plant immediately start experimenting on themselves, thinking that just because it is "natural" it can't do much harm. He cites the following examples to illustrate his point:

● Several years ago, two girls inspired by advertisements and articles on possible beneficial effects of the noni fruit or local *apatot* took bites from an unripe fruit and landed in the hospital for toxic shock.

● Mahogany seeds, once reported in media as beneficial for high blood pressure, were later shown in scientific studies to be very harmful to the heart.

● Comfrey, a medicinal herb, can be toxic to the liver when taken internally.

● Pregnant women should be wary of many herbs and spices. *Sinta*, at one time an ingredient in *pito-pito* (seven-herb) tea, has abortifacient properties.

Overdoses of many otherwise useful herbs can overwork and harm one's kidneys or liver.

● Aloe vera or *sabila* is a validated hair tonic, but if you leave it on your scalp for more than 15 minutes, it may cause your head to stink. Taking it internally as a drink is controversial.

● Narra bark, noni juice, *kargasoc* tea and bee pollen are some natural concoctions with no proven efficacy, he said. Be careful with honey if you have a history of asthma and allergies, it may trigger an attack.

Studies on the correct dosage of virgin coconut oil for therapeutic purposes are still ongoing, said Jaime Montoya, executive director of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD).

Read labels carefully on imported herbal food supplements and tea. They may contain harmful herbs like *ma-huang*. *Kombucha* tea (made from fermented yeast and bacteria), and periwinkle (*chichirica*) may also be toxic. If you do not know exactly what an herbal supplement or slimming tea contains, don't take it.

For information on the proper use of medicinal plants refer to the Department of Health's materials or contact the Institute for Herbal Medicine in the UP College of Medicine compound in Manila.

The PCHRD, under the Department of Science and Technology, has published a "Guidebook on the Proper Use of Medicinal Plants," prepared by Dr. Nelia Maramba, Sia and other associates at the UP College of Medicine. *Monica Feria*

'Malunggay' is next big thing in agri-business

By Amy R. Remo

IMAGINE YOUR ORDINARY PAN DE SAL, polvoron, kamote muffins and fettuccini noodles fortified with *malunggay*. Imagine the common leafy vegetable in capsules as a food supplement, or as a medicinal oil.

Biotechnologists of the Department of Agriculture believe the ultra nutritious *malunggay* or horseradish tree (Moringa oleifera L.), an ingredient in many Filipino dishes, would significantly improve the health of Filipinos—while providing a new agri-business opportunity for farmers.

Malunggay is making a golden comeback and promises to be "the next big thing" in Philippine agriculture biotechnology, said Alicia Ilaga, director of the DA Biotechnology Program, during the recent 2007 Agrilink/Foodlink exhibit.

The Department of Agriculture is now encouraging the massive cultivation of the once lowly *malunggay*, dubbed a "miracle vegetable."

More than a hundred individuals and local government officials have joined a single network to tap the agribusiness potential of *malunggay*. Dubbed the Biotechnology Information and Organization Network (Bionet)-*Malunggay*, the center is a partnership between various stakeholders, including farmers, scientists, local governments, non-government organizations and the academe.

Known more as a backyard vegetable, *malunggay* was found by local scientists to have varied health and medicinal uses and export business potential.

"All parts of the *malunggay*, from the green leaves to pods, flowers, seeds and even roots have medicinal value," said Ilaga.

The DA has is already producing planting materials such as moringa seed and stem cuttings, as part of its promotions campaign.

Isulan, Sultan Kudarat Mayor Diosdado Pallasigue has expressed interest in *malunggay*'s potentials in agriculture, trade and business.

Malunggay byproducts include body lotions, hair creams, massage creams, water purifiers and an all-purpose oil.

According to Jaime Galvez-Tan, former acting secretary of health and now president of Health Futures Foundation Inc., *malunggay* leaves are a good source of phosphorus, ascorbic acid, calcium, and iron. Filipino mothers are encouraged to eat it to increase the flow of breast milk. The young fruit is high in protein.

Other uses cited by Galvez-Tan: The wood and bark are used as a blue dye in Jamaica. The tree is often used as a fence material in the Philippines. The ben oil from the seeds, with its absence of color, smell and taste renders it peculiarly adapted for use in the process of extracting perfumes.

Medicinally, he said, its roots and leaves are traditionally used to soothe swellings by way of a soft, heated preparation spread on cloth. The leaves are used as a poultice for wounds and sores. The root, if chewed and applied to the bite of a snake, is said to prevent the poison from spreading. It is regarded as a stimulant and diuretic. A decoction of leaves and pods are prescribed for hiccoughs, asthma, gout, lumbago, rheumatism and deep-seated inflammations. It is also said to have purgative and antiscabies properties.

Conrado Dayrit, Dr. Coconut; 88

DR. CONRADO S. DAYRIT, CARDIOLOGIST, pharmacologist, National Scientist and past president of the National Academy of Science and Technology, died at 6:45 a.m. yesterday at the Victor Potenciano Medical Center where he was serving as its medical director.

Dr. Dayrit is best known for his virgin coconut oil advocacy as a health food from the time of his pioneering clinical study on its positive effect on HIV-AIDS in the early 1980s. He authored the book, The Truth about Coconut Oil.

VCO Philippines, an association of virgin coconut oil producers and traders, conferred on him the title of Father of VCO in 2003 for spearheading national and global interest on Philippine coconut oil.

He is survived by his wife, Milagros Millar, five sons: Former Health Secretary Manuel III, Dean of Science and Engineering at the Ateneo University Fabian, Eduardo, Ignacio and Francis; and daughter Regina.

The body lies at Santuario de San Jose, East Greenhills, San Juan.

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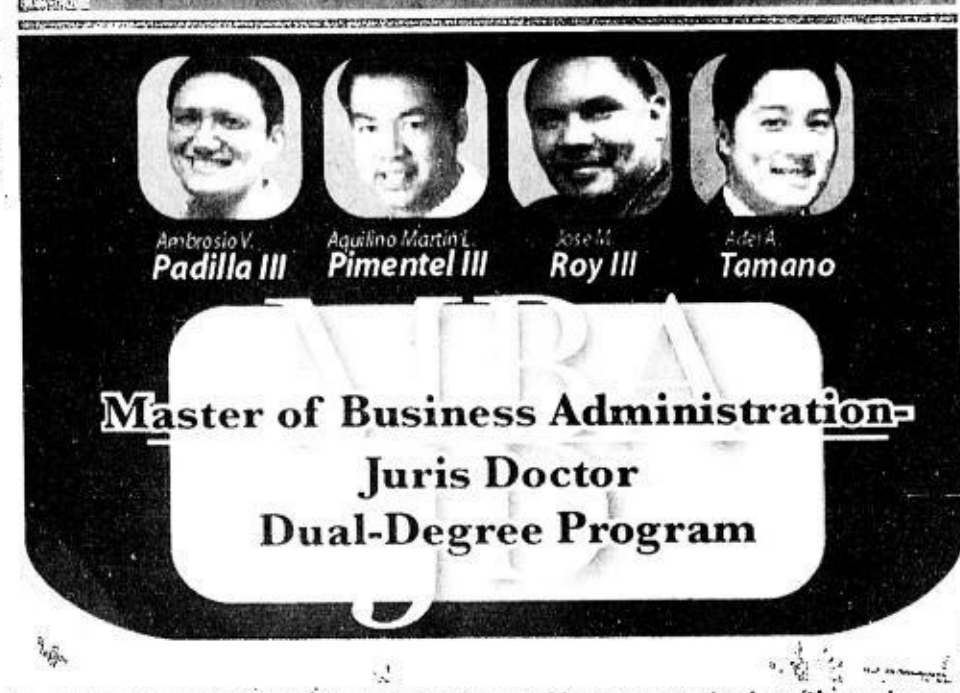

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Deadline of submission of entry forms is on Oct 15.

For inquiries regarding the tournament, please call Jong Arcano or Chris Vida at 8978808 local 267 or 277 or contact your respective clubs. Details are also available online at philippinesgolf.com

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Unpaid taxes of CARP lands swell to P1B

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—THE UNPAID REAL PROPERTY TAX FOR FARMlands covered by agrarian reform in Negros Occidental has reached more than P1 billion, Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon said Thursday.

A report submitted by Provincial Assessor Merlita Caelian showed that the real property tax collectibles for agrarian reform-covered property from 1988 to Sept. 21, 2007 amounted to P1.131 billion, excluding pieces of properties in eight cities that have yet to submit their reports.

There were 104,914 hectares of land in Negros Occidental covered by the government's agrarian reform programs, Republic Act No. 6657 (Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law and the Presidential Decree 27 (land reform on rice and corn lands), the report showed.

The highest amount of unpaid taxes of agrarian reform lands were registered in Manapla at P100.24 million, followed by Pontevedra (P96.18 million), Isabela (P97.39 million), Moises Padilla (P88.78 million), Hinigaran (P88.14 million) and E.B. Magalona (P81.74 million).

Thirteen other municipalities and four cities have unpaid real estate taxes from agrarian reform lands ranging from P65 million to about P3 million.

Meanwhile, Marañon said a study conducted by the provincial government to determine the status of agrarian reform beneficiaries in Negros Occidental showed the need for adequate support services to help them make their land productive.

The study has shown that 41 percent of the agrarian reform beneficiaries in the province are no longer tillers of the land, he pointed out. They have either leased or sold the rights to their pieces of properties, the governor said.

Marañon said he had the study conducted to push for the success of agrarian reform in Negros Occidental.

"Our pushing for the evaluation of the CARP when it expires next year does not mean that we are saying that it should not be continued. We are not going against CARP. We just want its implementation to be improved so it will be responsive to the needs of the beneficiaries," he said.

The Department of Agrarian Reform could continue to cover agricultural properties that were volunteered for coverage by landowners but there should be a moratorium on covering productive lands, Marañon added.

Barangay elections draw blood in Bataan

BALANGA CITY—A candidate for barangay captain in the Oct. 29 barangay elections was shot and killed by four men in Pilar, Bataan, on Saturday, police said.

Renato Solomon, 49, who was running for village chief of Landing in Pilar, was biking in his village when shot by four men armed with .45 cal. and 9 mm pistols at 6 a.m., police said.

Senior Supt. Odelon Ramoneda, Bataan police director, said police were investigating whether the slaying was related to politics or to any election-related issue.

Reports said Solomon, a known community leader in Landing, died of bullet wounds in the head and body. He died instantly.

In the Ilocos, the regional police have identified 116 villages in 15 towns in the region as "areas of concern" in the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, regional police director, said these villages would be the priority for deployment of additional policemen once he received recommendations from the chiefs of police in these areas. *Reports from Greg Refraccion, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Gabriel Cardinoza and Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

JAPANESE residents of Baguio City help clean up the summer capital of trash that had become not only eyesores, but health hazards as well. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Japanese help clean up Baguio streets of trash

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—JAPANESE businessmen in kimono jackets surprised residents here on Saturday when they started hauling garbage off downtown streets while fog blanketed the city and monsoon rains poured.

Behind this group marched Baguio oldtimers, wearing thick jackets and scarves and lugging black trash bags and brooms at past 9 a.m.

It was supposed to be an ordinary cleanup day for the Baguio Community of Volunteers (BCV), a civic group dedicated to keeping the summer capital as clean as possible.

But they were dealing this week with mountains of garbage, left uncollected by the city government "to teach residents a lesson."

The city enforced a "no-segregation, no-collection" policy for daily garbage, after noting that no more than 10 of the 128 barangays here have heeded the new waste management ordinance that calls for separating recyclable waste from residual waste.

Piles of unsegregated garbage have been decaying in downtown streets and in many villages since Monday.

City officials said many village officials refused to collect trash in their villages despite the city government warnings because they insisted that the city was duty-bound to comply with sanitation laws.

Some aspiring barangay officials even used the deadlock as their campaign platform for the Oct. 29 barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

"We are not here to challenge that policy, but we are also concerned that this may start another disease," said Fr. Carmelo Carreon, BCV secretary general.

INQUIRER Mindanao

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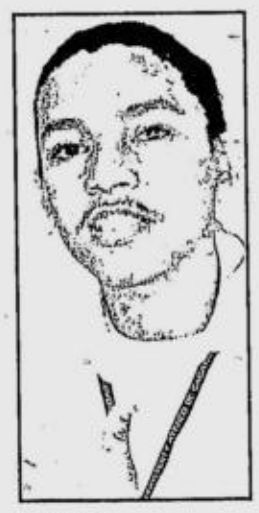
Saving the youth from risks



DATOY

'The youth are usually the last to receive information on these matters, while in fact they are among those most exposed to unsafe sex'

By Ma. Cecilia L. Rodriguez
Misamis Oriental

UNLIKE OTHER TEENAGERS, THIS GROUP spends weekends and free time not in malls and game hubs but in dusty barangay halls or even under the shade of a tree.

Being there is neither a requirement nor a spiritual sortie but is motivated by a common mission: To save young people like them from contracting sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS (human immunodeficiancy virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

The advocates call themselves Kartada Tres, an acronym for Karapatan at Kalusugan ng Kabataan.

With more than 600 youth volunteers, the group goes around barangays in Misamis Oriental and the Lanao provinces to conduct small group discussions and symposiums about reproductive health, HIV/AIDS prevention and safe sex.

"Participants should be 13 to 21 years old. There are times when older people want to sit in but usually they ruin the discussion because of their hostile reactions," relates Mark Vincent Datoy, 21, one of the senior volunteers.

Thus, he says, they usually request organizers to make sure the lectures will be exclusive for the youth.

SK project

Kartada Tres is composed of officers of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) in Lanao and Misamis Oriental. The AIDS/HIV awareness campaign was originally a project of the SK in 2004, but it was the Population Services Pilipinas Inc. (PSPI) that was requested to facilitate a series of seminars designed to spark interest and awareness among SK members on reproductive health.

Ping Castillo, PSPI project officer, says she welcomes the SK interest on HIV/AIDS prevention. "The youth are usually the last to receive information on these matters, while in fact they are among those most exposed to unsafe sex," she says.

Castillo regrets that the government's rural health units do not include the youth in its reproductive health campaign. "I believe there is so much to be done to meet the needs of the youth," she says, pointing to the lack of openness in sex education among health workers.

This same attitude among stakeholders, especially the Church and the academe, became a major challenge for Kartada Tres.

"We know there are people who do not agree with what we are doing. They criticize and rebuke us, saying we only encourage teenagers to engage in premarital sex. But we are also encouraged by the support we get from those who believe in our cause," Datoy says.

He mentions the recognition the group has received from the Cagayan de Oro City council for its work.

Youth at risk

"We started our seminars with personality and communication skills development. Then we moved on to gender and sexuality, and eventually discussed extensively reproductive health, safe sex and HIV/AIDS," recounts Castillo on the PSPI's technique in capturing the interest of their young audience.

More than capturing the interest of students, the agency sparked among them a devotion to impart what they had learned to other youngsters.

A month after the training, Kartada Tres was founded. It came at a time when the alarm had been sounded on the prevalence of premarital sex.

A study conducted by the University of the Philippines' Population Institute in 2002, shows that one of five young Filipinos aged 15-24 had engaged in sexual intercourse before marriage and about 15 percent of young Filipino males had engaged in homosexual sex.

Between 1994 and 2002, the number of young people who thought that AIDS was curable more than doubled.

In the article "Restless, Reckless and at Risk" by Tony Maghirang (Sunday INQUIRER Magazine, June 17, 2007), Prof. Maria Paz Marquez, deputy project coordinator of the Young Adults Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS) project, said: "We found an increasing trend towards risky sexual behavior—sex with multiple partners, casual sex, or sex with new acquaintances, commercial sex and unprotected sex. The risks involve early and unwanted pregnancy, or contracting sexually transmitted diseases."

Acceptance

Datoy gulps down these facts like flowing water.

"Yes, teenage sex is happening," he says. "Everyone should accept that this is happening not only in liberated countries but also in the Philippines."

"There was this teenager who was in one of my lectures, 15 or 16 years old. He was sexually active and believed that he will not contract any sexually transmitted disease because he is young and strong. After hearing my lecture, he told me later that he will stop his sexual adventures and if ever, will make sure to use condoms," recounts Datoy.

Kartada Tres volunteers have tested the effectiveness of their lectures in its almost four years of work. "They listen to us because we can relate to them. *Parang magkakabarkada lang kami* (We are like buddies)," says Datoy.

Castillo stresses that instead of berating them, the best way is to teach them responsibility and educate them on the risks. "Turning them away or simply ignoring will only push them to greater danger," she says.

Deadly consequences

Dr. Lucille Tesoro, secondary education supervisor of the Department of Education in Northern Mindanao, agrees on the importance of sex education today.

"Before, there was already an agreement that sex education will be included in PHEM subject in high school.

Although this was implemented, the lectures only touched on how to be a good lady or gentleman, there was no real lecture on reproductive health and sexuality," Tesoro says.

She commends Kartada Tres for its work and calls on its members to "try approaching the DepEd" for partnership.

Partnership with other sectors and stakeholders has been long planned by Kartada Tres as it pushes for the passage of an AIDS council in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan City that will consolidate all the efforts for HIV/AIDS prevention.

Datoy, who will soon pass his mantle to a new volunteer when he graduates in college next year, says he has high hopes for his group. "There's still so much to do. We haven't reached all the barangays yet," he says.

Above his worries that many teens are still out there doing unprotected sex, he reels over the deadly consequences not only of the behavior of these young people, but the actions of the elder ones.

"I hope they will open their minds that premarital sex is happening. People should not condemn people who are sexually active," he says.

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Bachelor of Science (BS) in Industrial Design
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School of Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management**
BS in Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management (Tracks in Culinary Arts, Hospitality Management, and Travel and Tourism Management)
Associate Degree in Culinary Arts*

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MARY MEDIATRIX MEDICAL CENTER'S
NEW H.B. CALLEJA BUILDING
The Region's Latest Innovation in Industrial Health Medicine

MARY MEDIATRIX MEDICAL CENTER in Lipa City, Batangas recently held groundbreaking ceremonies to launch the construction of its latest project - the H.B. Calleja Building. Set for completion by May 2008, the new edifice is envisioned to be the most progressive industrial health center in all of Southern Luzon. It will cater to the occupational health needs of the various companies in the region by bringing together preventive and therapeutic services in one convenient setting.

The H.B. Calleja Building will also house the Weight Management Center, the Rehabilitation Department, Dermatology Clinic and Ancillary services such as audiometry, perimetry, EEG, EMG and Sleep Studies and the Executive Offices.

This is the preliminary phase of Mary Mediatrix Medical Center's long term, strategic plan to upgrade all its services and facilties. To further address the growing needs of the region, renovation-modernization of the Main V. L. Magsino, Sr. Building and the Emergency Room will soon follow.

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BONDING WITH A DIFFERENCE

Band of (frat) brothers wheel in hope

By Tina G. Santos

THESE FRAT MEN ARE OUT TO prove what real brotherhood should be about.

Members of the Phi Kappa Mu—a fraternity of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine—are keeping their hands busy with community service.

"It's unfortunate that some fraternities have been associated with incidents of hazing and brawls or 'rumbles,'" lamented superior exemplar Roland Joseph Tan, 25, the group's top official.

Another UP fraternity, the Sigma Rho, has been in the spotlight recently because some of its members are suspected to be involved in a hazing incident that resulted in the death of Cris Anthony Mendez, a student council leader, last month.

Tan, a medical student, said that while they condemn Mendez's death, he hopes people would look beyond the negative image of fraternities.

"It's sad people seem to always equate fraternities with violence. I wish they would also look at the good things most of these organizations have been doing," he added.

Tan said he is proud to say that the Phi Kappa Mu has played an important role in molding not just good doctors but outstanding leaders in medicine.

Established in 1933, the fraternity counts among its members some of the founding fathers of the medical profession in the Philippines. The list includes Doctors Luis Torres Jr., Quintin Gomez and Alfredo Ramirez, the acknowledged fathers in the practice of urology, anesthesiology and modern burn surgery, respectively, in the country.

"When a student joins Phi, he does not merely join a group that will enhance his college life," Tan said. "He will belong to a brotherhood that lasts for life and that which embraces the ideals of academic excellence, leadership, camaraderie and service."

"And besides, we're not just a group of doctors and medical students. Our main goal is to save lives so we really do not tolerate violence," he stressed. "We focus more on what challenges the mind."

MEMBERS of Phi Kappa Mu, a fraternity of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, assemble during their free time wheelchairs which will be distributed to indigents.

PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

Apart from expanding their knowledge, Phi members have also been reaching out to those in need.

These days, in between their studies and other responsibilities, Phi brothers have been putting together hundreds of wheelchairs that will be distributed free to persons with disabilities (PWDs), particularly those who belong to indigent families.

The fraternity, which has over 1,000 members here and abroad, has linked up with the Free Wheelchair Mission (FWM), a nonprofit Christian organization in the United States which distributes free wheelchairs to poor PWDs in other countries. The FWM has already wheeled in hope, so to speak, to some 250,000 PWDs worldwide.

'It's sad when people equate frats with violence'

"OUR MAIN goal is to save lives so we do not really tolerate violence," says the group's superior exemplar Roland Joseph Tan.

According to John Paul Mariñas, 23, Phi Kappa Mu's vice superior exemplar, at least 550 PWDs all over the Philippines are expected to benefit from the project.

"This is just the first batch of beneficiaries. Together with the FWM, we plan to make this a continuing effort," he added.

The beneficiaries would be selected by several institutions, including the Manila City government, the Philippine National Red Cross, the Philippine College of Surgeons, and several nongovernment organizations, hospitals and charities.

Mariñas said the wheelchair project is among the fraternity's activities in line with its upcoming diamond anniversary which aptly carries the theme "Empowerment through Mobility."

Another is the Operating Room Assistance (Opera) project that aims to provide antibiotics and other surgical materials to poor patients scheduled for surgery at the Philippine General Hospital.

"We hope this will somehow lighten the burden of sick and poor patients and their families," Mariñas said, adding that they are now in the process of looking for donors.

According to him, their projects uphold Phi Kappa Mu's 75-year-old tradition of service.

For several years now, the fraternity's members have been lending their money, time and expertise to projects like the annual "Operation Gift of Smile" in Palawan, which corrects cleft lip and palate problems of children on the island; livelihood projects in Cebu, undertakings of the Missionaries of the Poor in Naga and support for the Street Children's Village in Alabang.

Through its service arm, Pagkalinga sa Kalusugan ng Mamamayan (Pagkalma), the members and alumni of Phi Kappa Mu volunteer in medical missions and extend community assistance in various forms.

"We are also working on our Hero (Health Education Reform Order) program where we adopt elementary schools and conduct free health lectures and tests on students," Mariñas added.

According to him, this is their way of giving back to their community and the country. "We hope to erase the common notion that frat men do nothing but engage in violence," Tan said.

"We are proud to be a part of this fraternity and we want to protect its legacy and untarnished name," Mariñas added.

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GLOBAL Pinoy
Editor Gerry Lirio

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2007

NEED HELP?
WHEN AN OFW is in trouble anytime, anywhere in the world, send a text message to +639209639767. The Center for Migrant Advocacy and its partners abroad, in cooperation with DFA, will respond to the SOS.

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

ONCE AN ALTAR BOY in Pangasinan, Fr. Midas Tambot, SVD, is priest, counsel and friend to Filipino workers in Hong Kong's St. Joseph's Church. With about 8,000 attendees during weekends, it's the biggest and easily the busiest parish in the former crown colony.

DANTE PERALTA

That Midas touch in HK parish

By Blanche S. Rivera
Correspondent

AS HONG KONG BISHOP JOSEPH CARDINAL Zen said, it could have been another Italian or American. Instead, the new shepherd of Hong Kong's biggest parish is a Filipino.

A former altar boy from Pangasinan has been appointed parish priest of St. Joseph's Church in Central Hong Kong, touted as the biggest parish with about 8,000 Mass attendees every weekend, most of them Filipino migrants.

On Sept. 1, Fr. Midas Tambot, SVD, officially became the first Filipino priest to take over St. Joseph, now known as a church of migrants due to the bulk of overseas Filipino workers who turn the place into the biggest Filipino Catholic melting pot in Hong Kong on Sundays.

7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"By appointing Father Midas as parish priest, we are not making St. Joseph a Filipino parish. He has to take care of everybody in that parish—Chinese, expatriates, Filipinos," Zen, one of Hong Kong's most prominent personalities, told the INQUIRER in an interview. "The job will not be changed because of the change of personnel. It could be another American or Italian but he is very fit to (do) the job so we're very happy he's there."

Zen is one of Hong Kong's most prominent personalities.

Father Midas started learning the ropes in the parish as early as October 2006, when he was brought in as assistant priest to American Fr. Denis Hanley. It was his fourth parish since coming to Hong Kong as a young, wide-eyed missionary priest in 1993.

"With my assignment now, *parang nasa* Pilipinas *din ako*," said Father Midas, who can only go for a vacation every three years, as per his congregation's policy.

With 10 Masses every Sunday—seven in English, three in Tagalog—and two on Saturdays and weekdays, and another five church organizations with about 150-300 members each, St. Joseph is easily the biggest and busiest parish in Hong Kong.

"The traffic of people is present from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. By the bulk of people alone, it's quite demanding, but the people energize you too," he said.

Love before you change

They not only energize the 43-year-old priest, they teach him as well.

"When you're a new priest coming in, it's not only you who will teach them; the people will teach you also," he said.

Before coming to St. Joseph's Church, Father Midas served as assistant parish priest at the Our Lady of the Annunciation parish in Tsuen Wan (1993 to 1997), Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Tai Po (May 1997 to December 2000), and the Holy Family parish in Choi Hung (December 2000 to June 2006).

"As of now I'm still in the process of knowing the community better as a pastor and I hope I can move forward from that. I am not coming in with grand plans," he said.

One thing the priest learned from 14 years of ministry in Hong Kong is a Cantonese saying: Ngoi Sin Ji Goi, which means: "You love before you change," he said.

"Be part of the community first" Father Midas said. Go into the heart of the community. When you're there, that's when you'll have an idea of what should be improved, what should be strengthened, what should be changed. But you love first."

Love, indeed, is the necessary antidote to the loneliness that is only too pervasive among migrant workers.

> One thing he learned the past 14 years is a Cantonese saying: 'Ngoi Sin Ji Goi (Love before you change),' his guiding principle in dealing with Filipino workers coping with loneliness

'Just be there'

Father Midas said it could be one reason the Filipinos abroad seem to be more interested and involved in parish activities than the Catholics in the Philippines. In a land where they toil day and night, OFWs want something familiar like the church to give them that feeling of being at home.

"In the Philippines, you go to church on Sundays and after that, you have a family to come home to. You can go out, eat, do things together. Here, you don't have that," he said, noting how many churchgoers stay after the Mass to join church organizations.

As parish priest, he said one of his most important tasks is to "just be there" for the people and be a shepherd that, literally, speaks their language.

Father Midas recalled the most heartbreaking stories he has heard from Filipinos here. One was a Filipina forced to work as a domestic helper here to support her sister through medical school. When the sister became a doctor, she would not even introduce her domestic worker-sibling as family.

Another was a mother who came to him and said simply: "Father, *namatay po ang asawa ko, pinatay po siya ng anak ko.*"

Said Father MIdas: "Sometimes in those cases, you can only listen ... They are not really looking for solutions, just someone to talk to. We are all foreigners here ... Somehow the church gives them a taste of home. It is something that is familiar to them."

"If that feeling keeps them going another week, then I suppose it's a big help. After that, they go back to work, ready to take their chances again."

The life of an OFW is nothing new to Father Midas, whose brothers, aunts and uncles had worked in Taiwan and the Middle East. Growing up, he remembers his mother's colleagues in school leaving for higher-paying teaching jobs in the Middle East.

Inspired by a friend

The priest, who now ministers to migrant workers, was only 8-years-old when he became an altar server or a sacristan in his parish. At 12, he entered the seminary in Binmaley, Pangasinan, inspired by a priest, Fr. Felipe Matias, with whom the altar boy often tagged along to the barrios and seminaries.

He was ordained on Dec. 8, 1992 and graduated in March 1993. Five months later, he was on a plane bound for Hong Kong, then the closest to China that any priest could get and a dream assignment for SVD priests. It was his first time out of the country.

"My mom was asking me to leave (the seminary), but I never had a reason to leave. There were doubts sometimes, but not enough to leave so I took it as a sign that it's for me," Fr. Midas said.

"I was meant to stay."

'Dump dollars, hoard pesos'

By Jerome Aning

THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS of the Philippines yesterday repeated its call for overseas Filipino workers to dump their dollars and hoard their savings in pesos, warning that the greenback would likely fall to as low as P40 by year's end, should interest rates in the United States drop some more.

"We are strongly urging our OFWs and their families here to protect the value of their savings by investing in pesos and avoiding the dollar in view of the increased probability that lower US interest rates will soon trigger a bigger flight out of the (US) currency," said TUCP spokesperson Alex Aguilar.

Aguilar recalled that the US Federal Reserve cut its key rate by half a percentage point last month from 5.25 percent to 4.75 percent, in order to ease liquidity amid a worsening credit crunch that threatens to plunge the US economy into a recession.

The rate cut spurred a sell off in the US currency that saw the peso swiftly climbing to almost 44 to a dollar, from 47. On Friday, the peso closed at 44.75 to a dollar.

"Our projection of a $1 to P40 rate is based on the assumption that the US Federal Reserve will cut its key rate by another half a percentage point before the year ends," he said.

The US Federal Reserve will meet Oct. 30-31 to decide what to do with its key rate. Aguilar said lower US interest rates tend to drive investors to sell their dollars and dollar-denominated instruments in search of higher yields.

The labor leader added that even without any further US rate cut, the US dollar remains "basically weak" and is bound to further decline against the peso and other foreign currencies in the months ahead.

The dollar's steady decline has been attributed to the growing US debt and the widening US current account deficit.

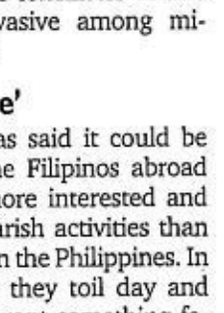
"Again, we must stress that we are simply looking out for (the welfare) our OFWs and their families, who clearly risk losing a lot of value for their money if they continue keeping their savings in dollars," he said.

The European banking giant Banque Nationale de Paris-Paribas had predicted that the peso would surge to 43 to a dollar by year's end, 37 to a dollar by next year and 30 to a dollar by the end of 2009.

The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. sees the peso firming up at 43 to dollar by year's end, 41 a dollar by next year and 40 to a dollar by the end of 2009.

After Nora Aunor's drug case dismissal, what?

IMFO
Lourdes Santos Tancinco



AS THE IMMIGRATION LAWYER of the nation's "Superstar," I received a phone call from the manager of Ms Nora Aunor sometime in the evening of March 2005. In a frantic tone, she was asking me for legal assistance on how to get Ms Aunor out of jail. I was astounded and asked her what happened. No information was given except that she was in Los Angeles.

Since I am based in San Francisco, I contacted my school mate in University of the Philippines, Ms Claire Espina and asked her to extend assistance to Ms Aunor. The instruction was to keep it very confidential. We both worked that night trying to locate her. Attorney Espina used her network to assist Ms Aunor get out of custody on bail.

The next morning, for some reason, the story was out in the papers, and I do not know what happened to the "very confidential" information that we were trying to keep secret for the client.

Ms Aunor is on a temporary working "O1" visa as she performs in varying events in the United States. The drug possession case that she was charged with will definitely have an adverse impact on her immigration status, if not actually resolve it in a positive way.

Immigration policy in the US maintains a no tolerance on drug use or possession. This is manifested by restrictive rules on inadmissibility for applicants for immigrant visas. It is not unusual that the use of the illegal drugs even in the past can come and haunt the applicant for immigrant visa and may be denied her opportunity to come to the United States.

For the "Superstar," I have always been asked the question on whether she is guilty of possessing illegal drugs found with her at the Burbank airport. My standard response is a smile coupled with a statement that she is innocent until proven guilty.

Has she been proven guilty? Only the courts of law will have to determine whether the "Superstar" is guilty. Criminal defense lawyer Claire Espina and her partner Sherwin Edilberg knew what the consequence of misdemeanor drug offense on Ms Aunor's immigration case. Several conferences took place and that the goal was to have the case dismissed.

In as much as the "Superstar" is a non-citizen, her criminal case must be dismissed and that there is no plea to a lesser offense. Criminal defense lawyers decided to have deferred judgment and for 18 months for the "Superstar" to show that she has not committed any other offense or taken illegal drugs. As the condition is that if she is found to have taken drugs, the case will be decided and that she will be prosecuted.

Aside from the threat of prosecution, the judge had cautioned the "Superstar" that she faces possible deportation.

For 18 months, the "Superstar" demonstrated good conduct, and having met all the conditions, the case was finally dismissed on Oct. 1.

Now the fact remains that the "Superstar" is still a non-citizen of the United States and would have to continue to maintain good conduct because at anytime, if it is discovered that she had committed any acts that is an element of a crime even if it does not amount to a crime, she may still face possible removable before the immigration court.

As an immigrant in the United States, one has no permanent status until she becomes a US citizen. Whether one is a green card holder or a holder of a nonimmigrant visa holder, there is no guarantee that the US Department of Homeland Security will not take necessary action to divest one individual of her status. However, it is important to understand that there are rights that are afforded to non-citizens as well and that must be exercised and not be abused.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Musharraf set to sweep presidential vote

ISLAMABAD—PAKISTANI PARLIAMENTARIANS were voting on Saturday in a presidential election military ruler Pervez Musharraf was sure to win even though he's uncertain whether the Supreme Court will let him claim victory.

Doubts whether the election result would stand fueled uncertainty in nuclear-armed Pakistan, as the 160-million strong Muslim nation enters a transition from military to civilian rule that will culminate in national polls due by mid-January.

The court ruled on Friday that the vote in the two-chamber parliament and four provincial assemblies could go ahead, but no winner would be declared until it has decided whether Musharraf was eligible to run for office while still army chief.

If reelected US ally Musharraf has promised to quit the army and be sworn in as a civilian leader just over eight years after coming to power in a coup.

The secret ballot began shortly after 10 a.m. and is due to finish by 3 p.m., with the tally from the 702-vote electoral college completed later in the day.

There were antigovernment protests led by lawyers, who have spearheaded a campaign against Musharraf in recent months in the four provincial capitals—Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta.

Police fired tear gas to disperse lawyers pelting rocks at the North West Frontier Province assembly, and the lawyers also threw a burning effigy of the president on top of an armored police vehicle.

The ruling coalition's majority ensures that Musharraf will beat two rival candidates in a contest the opposition barely participated in, but his fate will be undecided until at least Oct. 17, when the court is due to reconvene.

"We will win. there's no problem because we have the numbers, we have a majority," Information Minister Mohammd Ali Durrani said.

"We will then face the court. We have honored decisions of the court and we will continue to do so."

Nevertheless, there is speculation about how General Musharraf might react if the court thwarts his reelection.

So long as he is army chief he could declare emergency rule or martial law—options Musharraf has said he won't take.

The outcome is of vital interest to the West, which needs Pakistan's support for its efforts to stabilize Afghanistan and tackle the threat from al-Qaida.

The candidate that obtains the most votes in Saturday's ballot wins and Musharraf's task was made easier by protest resignations of more than 160 assembly members belonging to an opposition alliance led by Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister Musharraf ousted in 1999 and later exiled.

On the eve of the election, Musharraf averted resignations by the biggest opposition party, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) led by Benazir Bhutto.

Musharraf and Bhutto have for months been talking about a power-sharing deal that would help the president broaden his base of support and clear the way for self-exiled Bhutto's return to politics, possibly as prime minister for a third time.

On Friday, Musharraf met one of her main demands.

He annulled corruption charges against her and other civilian leaders, paving the way for her return after more than eight years to lead her party into the general election.

MUSHARRAF AFP

Instead of trying to spoil the credibility of the presidential vote by quitting parliament, PPP lawmakers abstained.

They walked off the floor before voting began. *Reuters*

Was Di pregnant? 'It may never be known'

LONDON—IT MAY NEVER BE KNOWN IF Princess Diana was pregnant when she died with her lover Dodi al-Fayed in a high-speed Paris car crash, the inquest into their deaths was told on Wednesday.

Dodi's father, Harrods luxury store owner Mohamed al-Fayed, says the couple were killed in 1997 by Britain's security services on the orders of Queen Elizabeth's husband, Diana's former father-in-law.

Fayed says the royal family ordered the killings because Diana was pregnant and was planning to marry her Muslim lover.

Summing up his opening remarks on day two of the inquest, Lord Justice Scott Baker said: "It is likely that pregnancy is a matter that cannot be proved one way or the other in scientific terms in this case."

Diana, 36, Dodi, 42, and chauffeur Henri Paul were killed when their Mercedes car crashed in a road tunnel as they sped away from the Ritz Hotel in Paris, pursued by paparazzi.

Fayed, whose allegations have been spelt out in court by the judge, also claims that Diana's body was hastily embalmed to cover up evidence that she was expecting another child.

The judge asked the jury to consider if the embalming was legal, who authorized it and whether there was an ulterior motive.

Scott Baker, presiding over a case that has attracted worldwide press interest and may take up to six months to resolve, said there was conflicting evidence about an engagement ring said to have been bought by Dodi for Diana.

He also went into scientific detail over the postmortem tests carried out on Henri Paul, the chauffeur who drove their car.

Investigations by French and British police have concluded the deaths were a tragic accident caused by Paul, who was found to be drunk and had been speeding. They both rejected Fayed's conspiracy theories.

Scott Baker also revealed that among the witnesses he hoped to call at the inquest was Paul Burrell, Diana's devoted butler whom she referred to as "her rock."

Britain had to wait for the French legal process to end and then for the British police investigation to run its course before the inquests into Diana's and Fayed's deaths could begin.

DIANA, Princess of Wales, and her companion Dodi Fayed, walk on a pontoon in the French Riviera resort of St. Tropez in this Aug. 22, 1997, photo. AP

Bush: Interrogation methods aren't torture

PRESIDENT BUSH, REACTING to a congressional uproar over the disclosure of secret Justice Department legal opinions permitting the harsh interrogation of terrorism suspects, on Friday defended the methods, declaring, "This government does not torture people."

The remarks, Bush's first public comments on the memoranda, came at a hastily arranged Oval Office appearance before reporters. It was billed as a talk on the economy, but after heralding new job statistics, Bush shifted course to a subject he does not often publicly discuss: a once-secret Central Intelligence Agency program to detain and interrogate high-profile terror suspects.

"I have put this program in place for a reason, and that is to better protect the American people," the president said, without mentioning the CIA by name. "And when we find somebody who may have information regarding a potential attack on America, you bet we're going to detain them, and you bet we're going to question them—because the American people expect us to find out information—actionable intelligence so we can help protect them. That's our job."

Without confirming the existence of the memoranda or discussing the explicit techniques they authorized, Bush said the government's interrogation methods had been "fully disclosed to appropriate members of Congress." But his comments only provoked another round of recriminations on Capitol Hill, as Democrats ratcheted up their demands to see the classified memoranda, first reported Thursday by The New York Times.

"The administration can't have it both ways," Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV, the West Virginia Democrat who is chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said in a statement after the president's remarks. "I'm tired of these games. They can't say that Congress has been fully briefed while refusing to turn over key documents used to justify the legality of the program."

In two legal opinions written in 2005, the Justice Department authorized the CIA to barrage terror suspects with a combination of painful physical and psychological tactics, including head-slapping, simulated drowning and frigid temperatures. *NYT*

WORLDBRIEFS

Double US air strike kills 25 in Iraq

BAGHDAD—A double US air strike on an Iraqi village killed around 25 suspected Iranian-linked insurgents on Friday, the military said, with Iraqi officials claiming women and children were among the dead. The strikes on Jayzani Al-Imam, 50 km north of the capital, came after a ground operation ran into trouble against insurgents firing rocket-propelled grenades, the US military said. The operation was launched to capture an insurgent commander linked to Iranian intelligence agents and believed to be smuggling weapons from Iran, accused by the US of fueling sectarian conflict in Iraq, it said. Iraqi police spokesperson Khudhayir al-Timimi said women and children were among the dead and wounded in the raid, but the Americans said they had no knowledge of civilian casualties. *AFP*

Chilean judge orders release of Pinochet family

SANTIAGO—A Chilean judge on Friday ordered a temporary release from jail of the widow and five children of former dictator Augusto Pinochet—one day after they were arrested on charges of embezzling millions of dollars stashed in US accounts. Judge Carlos Cerda granted Lucia Hiriart, 87, her five children and a gaggle of other detainees a supervised release from jail. "I ordered the arrest yesterday because the law required me to do so," the judge explained. "But today I believe that the requirements necessary to keep these people behind bars do not exist." The case came to light in 2004 when a US Senate probe found hundreds of accounts in the name of Pinochet and his relatives at the bank. *AFP*

Kabul suicide attack kills US soldier, 4 Afghans

KABUL, Afghanistan—Flames shot into the sky after a suicide car bomber attacked an American military convoy on the road to Kabul's airport Saturday, killing a US soldier and four Afghan civilians, officials said. The bombing—on the sixth anniversary of the US-led invasion of Afghanistan—threw several vehicles on their side. *AP*

Bulgaria, European countries banning prostitution

THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH had been planning to legalize prostitution, abruptly reversed itself on Friday, part of a broad trend in Europe to impose bans as a way to combat sexual trafficking.

"We should be very definite in saying that selling flesh is a crime," Rumen Petkov, the interior minister, said at a forum on human trafficking on Friday.

Bulgaria is only the latest European country to shift its approach to prostitution. Finland last year made it illegal to buy sex from women brought in by traffickers, and Norway is on the verge of imposing an outright ban on purchasing sex.

Even in Amsterdam, the city government has proposed shutting down more than a quarter of the famed storefront brothels in the red-light district. And in the Czech Republic and the three Baltic republics, attempts at legalization similar to the Bulgarian one have been turned back.

Prostitution now exists in a legal gray area in Bulgaria, a small but important country for the European sex trade. Women are sent abroad by the thousands each year to work as prostitutes, often against their will, and many others are forced into prostitution within the country's borders.

Opponents of legal prostitution argue that illegal operations flourish in environments where paying for sex is permitted, and that human trafficking follows the demand. The goal of prohibiting sex-for-money is to reduce the demand, and thus curtail trafficking if not stamp it out entirely.

The fight against legal prostitution has been led by an unusual coalition, including the Bush administration, feminist groups and the Swedish government. Proponents of measures like the Swedish model, which punishes customers rather than the prostitutes, say it has succeeded in Europe precisely because it singles out those who pay for sex without criminalizing those who provide it. The prostitutes, mostly women, are the real victims of the transactions, the proponents say. *NYT*

Scientists think they now know what human appendix is for

WASHINGTON—SOME SCIENtists think they have figured out the real job of the troublesome and seemingly useless appendix: It produces and protects good germs for the gut.

That is the theory from surgeons and immunologists at Duke University Medical School.

For generations, the appendix has been dismissed as superfluous. Doctors could find no function for it. Surgeons removed them routinely. People live fine without them.

And when infected, the appendix can turn deadly. It becomes inflamed quickly, and some people die if it is not removed expeditiously. Two years ago, 321,000 Americans were hospitalized with appendicitis, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The function of the appendix seems related to the massive amount of bacteria that populates the human digestive system, according to the study in the Journal of Theoretical Biology. More bacteria inhabit the typical body than human cells. Most of the bacteria are good and help digest food.

But sometimes the flora of bacteria in the intestines die or are purged. Diseases such as cholera or amebic dysentery would clear the gut of useful bacteria. The appendix's job is to reboot the digestive system in that case.

The appendix "acts as a good safe house for bacteria," said Duke surgery professor Bill Parker, a study coauthor. The location of the appendix, just below the normal one-way flow of food and germs in the large intestine in a sort of gut cul-de-sac, helps support the theory, he said.

Also, the worm-shaped organ outgrowth acts as a bacteria factory to cultivate the 'good germs, Parker said.

That use is not needed in a modern industrialized society, Parker said. If the gut flora dies, they usually can be repopulated easily with germs picked up from other people, he said. But before dense populations in modern times and during epidemics of cholera that affected a whole region, it was not as easy to grow back that bacteria, and the appendix came in handy.

In less developed countries, where the appendix may be still useful, the rate of appendicitis is lower than in the United States, other studies have shown, Parker said.

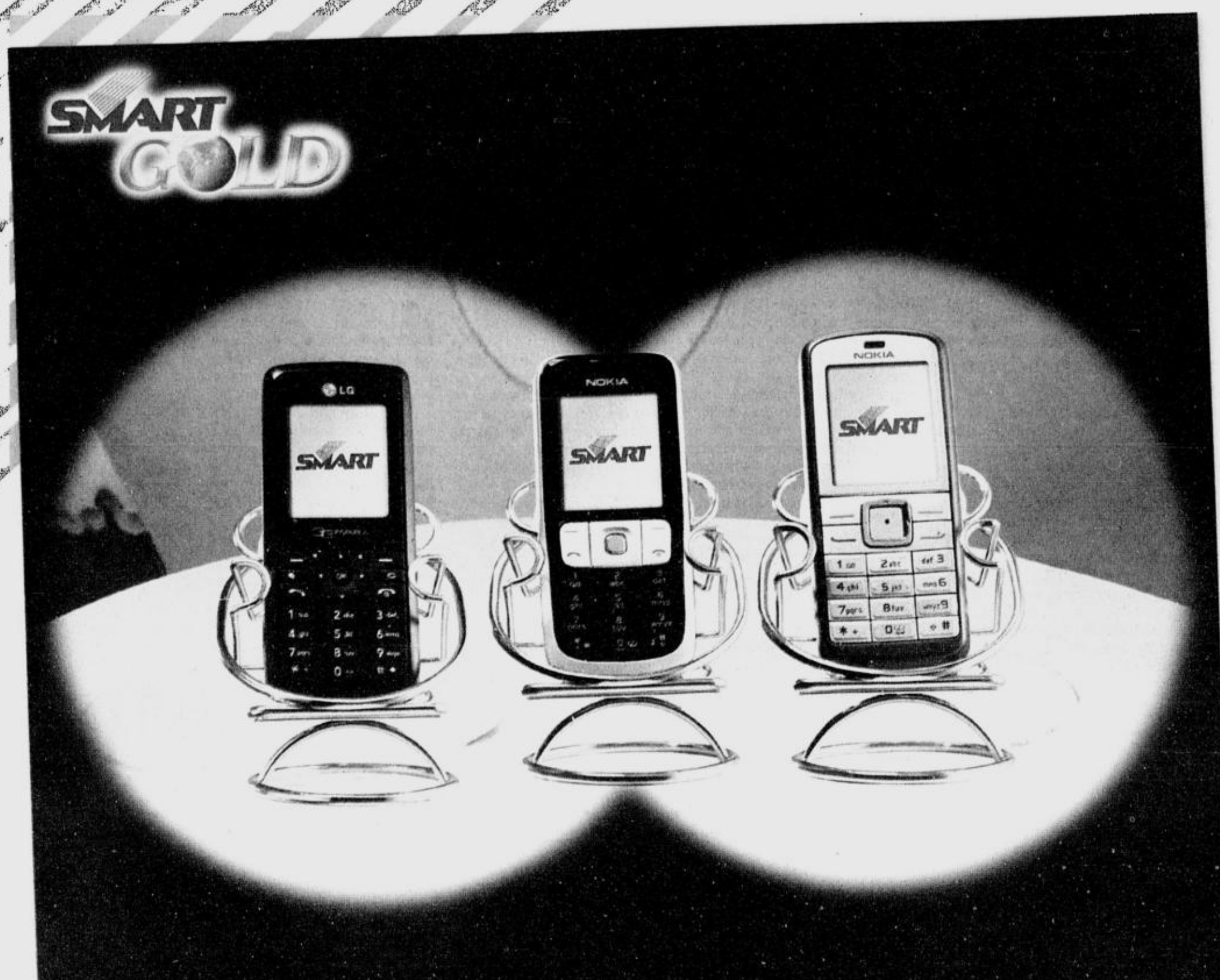
The appendix, which is about six to 10 cm long, may be another case of an overly hygienic society triggering an overreaction by the body's immune system, he said.

Even though the appendix seems to have a function, people should still have them removed when they are inflamed because it could turn deadly, Parker said. About 300 to 400 Americans die of appendicitis each year, according to the CDC.

Five scientists not connected with the research said that the Duke theory makes sense and raises interesting questions.

The idea "seems by far the most likely" explanation for the function of the appendix, said Brandeis University biochemistry professor Douglas Theobald. "It makes evolutionary sense."

The theory led Gary Huffnagle, a University of Michigan internal medicine and microbiology professor, to wonder about the value of another body part that is often yanked: "I'll bet eventually we'll find the same sort of thing with the tonsils." *AP*



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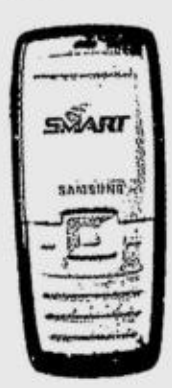

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Jones admits she lied, announces retirement /A24

Julaton, Farenas excited in Vegas undercard bouts

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

LAS VEGAS—FIL-AM ANA "THE HURRIcane" Julaton and Filipino featherweight prospect Michael Farenas vowed to do their best when they clash against separate opponents in the undercard of today's "Will to Win" card at the Mandalay Bay Events Center here.

The same can not be said, however, of the third Filipino in the undercard, LA-based Vernie Torres who was grossly overweight at yesterday's weigh-in and seemed undisturbed by it.

Julaton, the most decorated Filipina in the history of US amateur boxing, will take on Hondi Hernandez (4-1, 2 KOs) of Arizona in a four-round super bantamweight bout.

Renowned trainer Freddie Roach will be at Julaton's corner in her professional debut.

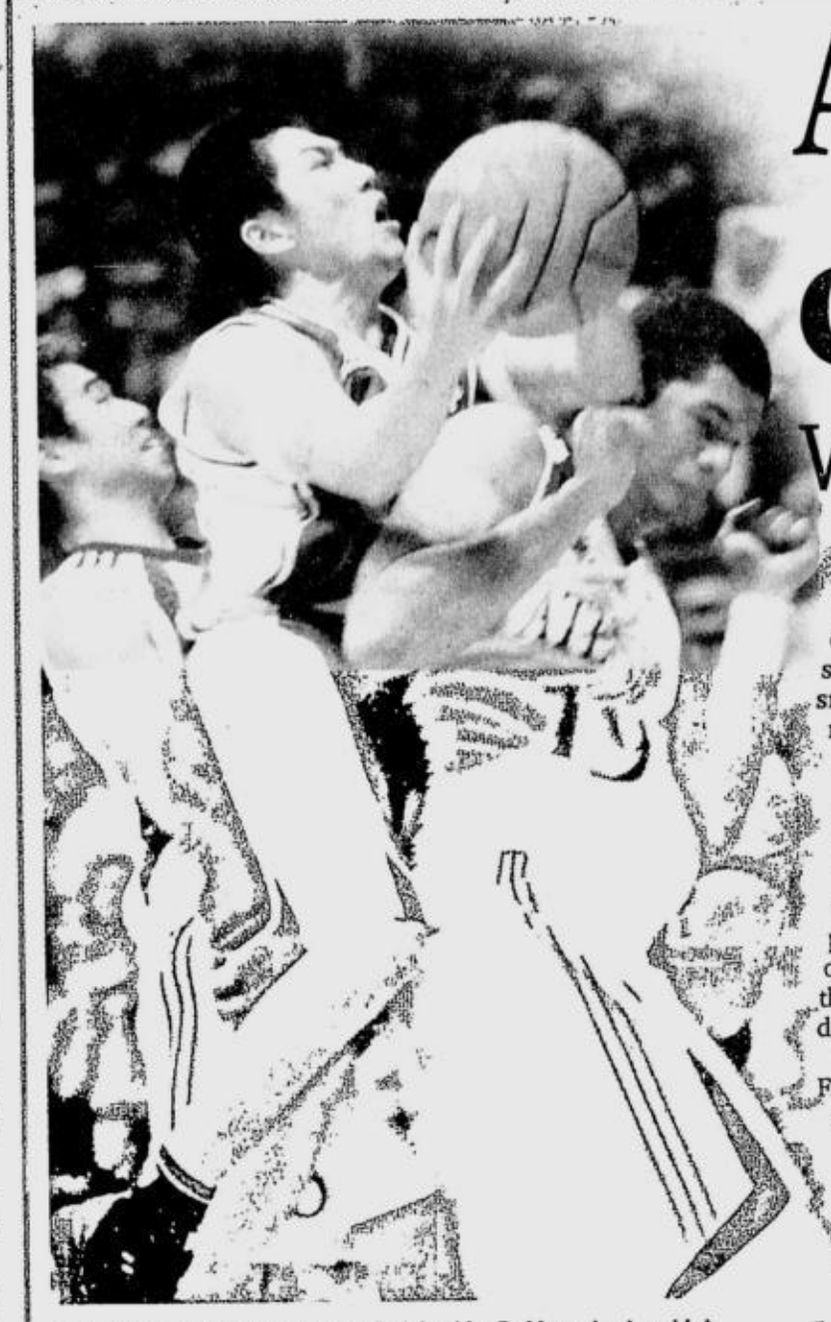
"I don't care who we fight, we'll take on Mike Tyson if we have to, just make the fight happen," Roach was quoted as saying when told Julaton would be facing the tough-as-nails Hernandez.

Julaton came in at 121 lbs against the 128 of Hernandez.

The Gubat, Sorsogon-raised Farenas, a protege of Gerry Peñalosa and Kosuke Washio of Japan, will face Arturo Valenzuela in a six-round featherweight bout.

Farenas (17-2-2, 15 KOs), who is the top-rated featherweight in the Philippines, will be making his American debut.

Torres, who came in at a bloated 127 lbs and did not seem bothered by it, is a late replacement. He will be facing fellow journeyman Manuel Sarabia of Mexico who came in at 121.5 lbs.



TY TANG of La Salle gets sandwiched by R. Hussainni and Jai Reyes of Ateneo in Game One on Thursday AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Archers seek crown today

Warriors remain confident

By Jasmine W. Payo

DE LA SALLE'S QUEST FOR ANOTHER championship this season has been so laborious that the euphoria of snapping University of the East's remarkable winning streak hasn't exactly hit the Green Archers.

"Right now it's just one win," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren.

Even if the feat pushed them within a victory of another championship, the Archers are anticipating another tough stretch when they try to sweep the favored Warriors in the UAAP Finals today at the Araneta Coliseum.

"We still have to be wary of them," said Franz of his younger brother Dindo's Warriors. "They can beat us two straight. I don't think they're a pushover team. If you look at their (streak) record, 14-0, it's a clear indication that they're very strong."

The Warriors aim to pull off a comeback in Game 2 of the best-of-three title series at 3 p.m., right after the 2 p.m. individual awards rites with Most Valuable Player Jervy Cruz of the University of Santo Tomas leading the recipients.

GAME TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—Awards Rites
3 p.m.—La Salle vs UE

"I think the boys know what to do," said Dindo. "Now that the boys know how it's like to be in the Finals, they've been more focused. We're ready to play our real game."

The Archers dealt the error-prone Warriors their first loss last Thursday with a 64-63 stunner that pushed them within a win of capturing their seventh men's basketball crown.

Seasoned guards TY Tang and JV Casio nailed crucial baskets in the final period while Rico Maierhofer sealed the victory by converting one of two free throws with 14.1 seconds left.

The Archers pulled it off despite coming from three draining matches—one playoff and two semifinal matches against Ateneo.

"That's where experience comes in," said Franz. "My guards are veterans of several wars already. I guess that's our advantage. And the UE Warriors, who are playing for the first time in the Finals, there's a little pressure on their part."

"We have to come out intense and aggressive again," said Dindo. "We had a chance to win Game 1 even if we played bad, that's why the team's morale is still high."

ANA "The Hurricane" Julaton

Buhain to supervise Pacquiao-Barrera II

LAS VEGAS—THE WORLD BOXING Council (WBC) has appointed Games and Amusements Board (GAB) chairman Eric Buhain as the fight supervisor for the mammoth showdown between Filipino pride Manny Pacquiao and Mexican great Marco Antonio Barrera.

"Yes, I will supervise. It will be an honor," Buhain said in an interview yesterday.

Buhain, along with the Nevada State Athletic Commission's Keith Kizer, had also supervised yesterday's official weigh-in at the Mandalay Bay Events Center, where the two protagonists made the 130-lb weight limit in their first try at the scales.

"This is another source of pride for the Filipino people," said Rolly Hiso, a Chicago-based Filipino who travelled to Las Vegas to see the fight. "Rarely do you see a Filipino being given by a major sanctioning body a major role in a huge fight. Buhain is a source of pride for every Filipino in the Philippines and abroad."

Meanwhile, Vice President Noli De Castro will lead a sprinkling of government officials and congressmen who will cheer for Pacquiao here at the 12,000-capacity Mandalay Bay Events Center. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

So, 2 others on top

YEREVAN, ARMENIA—Filipino International Master Wesley So stopped Armenian Tigran Manikonian late Friday for his third straight victory and a three-way tie for the lead in the 2007 World Junior Championship at the T. Petrosian Chess House here.

So, turning 14 on Oct. 9, played superbly with white to stay on top with third seed GM Maxim Rodshtein of Israel and No. 15 GM David Howell of England.

So also won over Emilis Pileckis of Lithuania in the first round and Fide Master Krzysztof Bulski of Poland in the second round.

The second-year high school student of St. Francis College (Bacoor) will handle black against Rodshtein in the fourth round Saturday.

Rodshtein bested Russian IM Evegny Romanov while Howell humbled Indian IM G. Rohit in other vital matches Friday.

So's counterpart in the distaff side, Aices Salvador, yielded to Haritomeni Markantonaki of Greece and stayed at 1.0 point.

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Ramirez rescues Red Sox

Indians, insects send NY Yankees crashing

CLEVELAND—HELPED BY A freakish invasion of gnats that rattled New York's rookie reliever Joba Chamberlain, Cleveland rallied to beat the Yankees 2-1 in 11 innings Friday and take a 2-0 lead in their American League division series.

The best-of-five series will now move to Yankee Stadium for two matches, with the home side needing to win both to force a fifth game and retain hope of reaching the American League championship series.

New York went ahead in the second inning through Melky Cabrera's solo home run, and held that advantage until Cleveland leveled off Chamberlain in the gnat-infested eighth.

In the bottom of the 11th, Kenny Lofton walked on four pitches against Luis Vizcaino, and Franklin Gutierrez singled.

Casey Blake moved the runners up with a bunt, before Grady Sizemore walked to load the bases.

Rookie Asdrubal Cabrera popped up in front of the plate to make it two outs before designated hitter Travis Hafner took a full count off Vizcaino then lined a shot to right-center to score the winning run.

A day after the Indians slugged to a 12-3 win, Fausto Carmona and the Yankees' Andy Pettitte put pitching back into the series.

Game 3 will see Jake Westbrook trying to pitch Cleveland to a sweep against Roger Clemens.

In Boston, a Manny Ramirez home run with two outs in the ninth inning gave the Red Sox a 6-3 win over the Los Angeles Angels and a 2-0 lead in their division series.

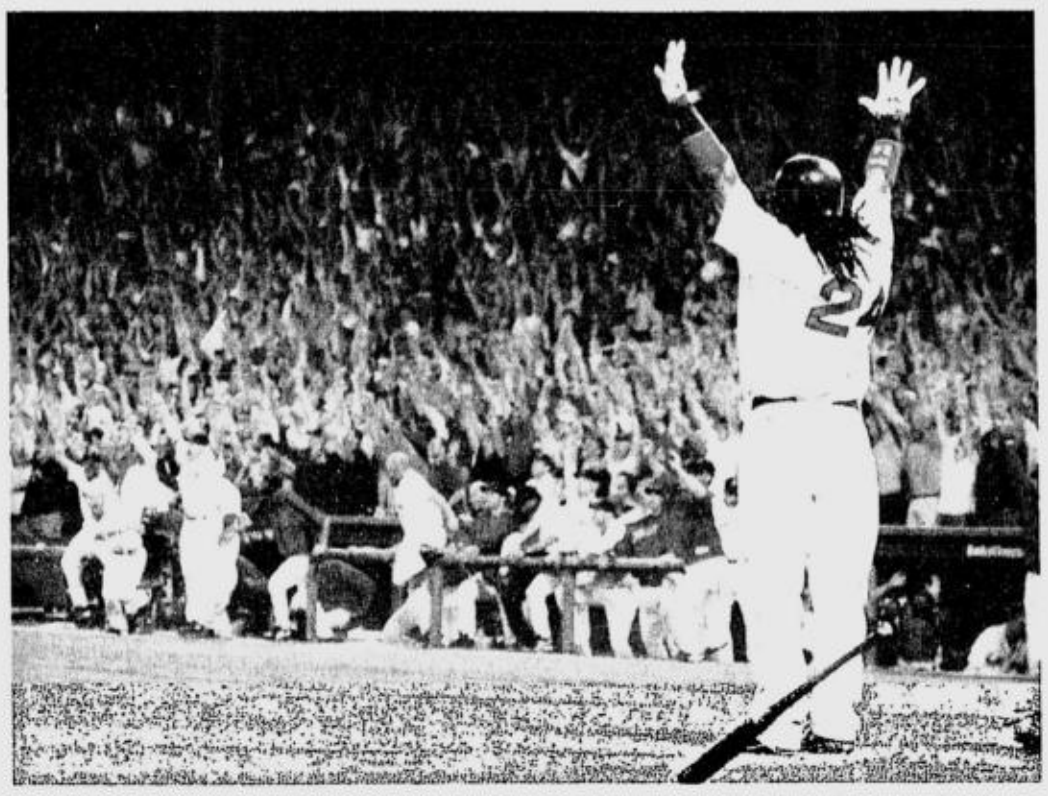
The Red Sox had earlier tied the game at 3-3 thanks to a front-row home fan who caught a tipped foul as it was falling into the glove of the scrambling Angels catcher Jeff Mathis. That prevented a third out in the fifth, and Boston capitalized by getting the tying run later in the inning.

With that scoreline holding until the bottom of the ninth, Julio Lugo singled off losing pitcher Justin Speier, and advanced to second as Dustin Pedroia ground out at first.

Francisco Rodriguez relieved and struck out Kevin Youkilis, then intentionally walked David Ortiz—his fourth walk of the game—in the hope of retiring Ramirez and ending the inning.

"You've got pick your poison with those guys," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said.

But Ramirez, who is coming off the worst offensive full season of his career, hit a 1-0 pitch over the Green Monster outfield wall and the seats behind it. It was his 21st postseason home run, one behind Bernie Williams' career record. *AP*



MANNY Ramirez of the Boston Red Sox celebrates after connecting for a three-run home run to defeat the Los Angeles Angels, 6-3, in Game 2 of the American League Division Series at Fenway Park. AFP

DOPING

Jones admits she lied, announces retirement

WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK—THREE-TIME Olympic champion Marion Jones pleaded guilty to lying to US government investigators when she denied using performance-enhancing drugs, and subsequently announced her retirement from athletics.

Outside the courthouse, Jones broke down in tears as she apologized for her actions, saying she fully understands she has disappointed her friends, family and supporters.

"I have let them down. I have let my country down, and I have let myself down," she said. "It is with a great amount of shame that I stand before you and tell you I have betrayed your trust.

"I recognize that by saying I'm deeply sorry, it might not be enough and sufficient to address the pain and hurt that I've caused you. Therefore, I want to ask for your forgiveness for my actions, and I hope you can find it in your heart to forgive me."

In court, Jones, seated at the defense table and speaking in a clear voice through a microphone, Jones said she lied to a federal investigator in November 2003 when he asked if she had used performance-enhancing drugs.

"I answered that I had not. This was a lie, your honor," she said.

She also pleaded guilty to a second count of lying to investigators about her association with a check-fraud conspiracy.

Jones said she took steroids from September 2000 to July 2001 and said she was told by her then-coach Trevor Graham that she was taking flaxseed oil when it was actually "the clear."

JONES AP

"By November 2003, I realized he was giving me performance-enhancing drugs," she told the judge.

She said she "felt different, trained more intensely" and experienced "faster recovery and better times" while using the substance.

"He told me to put it under my tongue for a few seconds and swallow it," she said. "He told me not to tell anyone."

Jones was released on her own recognizance and was due back in court Jan. 11 for sentencing.

It was a stunning fall from grace for Jones, once the most celebrated female athlete in the world. Although she never accomplished her audacious goal of winning five gold medals at the Sydney Olympics, she won three gold and two bronzes.

Dressed in a dark suit and pink shirt, Jones was somber when she arrived at US District Court with her mother and her attorney. *AP*

Hamilton takes Chinese GP pole position

SHANGHAI, CHINA—LEWIS HAMILTON, with a chance to clinch the drivers' championship in his rookie season, took pole position Saturday for the Chinese Grand Prix, with title rival and McLaren teammate Fernando Alonso qualifying fourth.

Kimi Raikkonen, who led all three practice sessions before qualifying was second with his Ferrari teammate Felipe Massa third.

HAMILTON AP

"We are in the best position to start the race," the 22-year-old Hamilton said. "I feel very optimistic about it. We have a good car I know the team will do a great job. I approach tomorrow the same as every race. I want to win, I want to do a good job for the team and if I do that it might be a good day for us.

"Fingers crossed."

Hamilton had a time of 1 minute, 35.908 seconds on the 5.5-kilometer (3.4-mile) Shanghai International circuit. *AP*

RP cagebelles Seaba tourney underdogs

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

I DIDN'T REALize how out of touch I had been with the RP women's basketball team until I got a press release from SBP executive director Pato Gregorio announcing that Jean Henri Lhuillier of Cebuana Lhuillier had agreed to play godfather to the squad.

Pato said that SBP president Manny V. Pangilinan and Jean Henri had met recently to seal the sponsorship which will include facilities, equipment, and cash incentives for the forthcoming Seaba tournament in Phuket this October and the Southeast Asian Games in December.

According to women's head coach Fritz Gaston, the Seaba trip is being financed by the Philippine Sports Commission, but for the more important SEAG, which will also be held in Thailand, the team still needs a sponsor.

To accommodate the ladies' team, Cebuana Lhuillier had to take a leave of absence from the PBL to rechannel its resources, which does not cover our participation in the SEA Games.

* * *

Two years ago, I was in Quinghuangdao, China where the Fiba Asia Women's championship was held.

I have seen the teams we will be facing in the Seaba and the SEAG and some of them will not be easy to beat.

Even if we are sending a taller, more talented and better supported team this time around.

Thailand, which belongs to Division 1 of Fiba Asia, has several six-footers and so does Malaysia. Singapore, which lost to us in Quinghuangdao, might surprise us with recruits from mainland China.

* * *

"What we lack in height, we will make up for in speed and aggressiveness," said Fritz, who has high hopes for a good finish in Phuket where Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines are participating.

RP's tallest players are six-footer Cassie Tioseco, 5-11 Amby Almazan and 5-9 Machiko Matsuno .

Eye-catching Fil-American Vicky Brick, who arrived from the United States recently, is expected to raise the Pinays' game to a much higher level.

Vicky comes from a Division 1 US NCAA school.

To my surprise, even my son Raymond, who coached the RP team in Quinghuangdao and is now a member of Fritz's coaching staff, is very optimistic about our chances in the Seaba scheduled Oct. 14-20.

* * *

When it comes to swimming, the San Beda Sea Lions are undoubtedly the best in the NCAA. The Sea Lions have been dominating the league for the last six years. This year, on the NCAA's 83rd season, they became "sixpeaters."

The Sea Lions broke 11 records this year through Miguel Amado Diaz, Jorge Palileo, MacGyver Reyes and Ferdinand Frigillana, the season's most valuable player.

Frigillana won 5 golds and established new records in all 5 events.

As part of their bonus incentive, the entire San Beda swimming team will be sent to Taipei by team manager James Sy to compete in the Taipei Citibank Invitational Swim Meet Nov. 11 and 12.

* * *

San Miguel Beverages Inc. was born when San Miguel Corporation and Coca-Cola International parted ways, the latter bringing with it all of SMC's beverage products which include carbonated softdrinks like Coke and Pop Cola and non-carbonated juices.

To introduce the new Magnolia beverage line to the market, the San Miguel Beermen will now be known in the PBA as the Magnolia Beverage Masters, who are rated as the team to beat this season.

Filter Kings silence Shooters

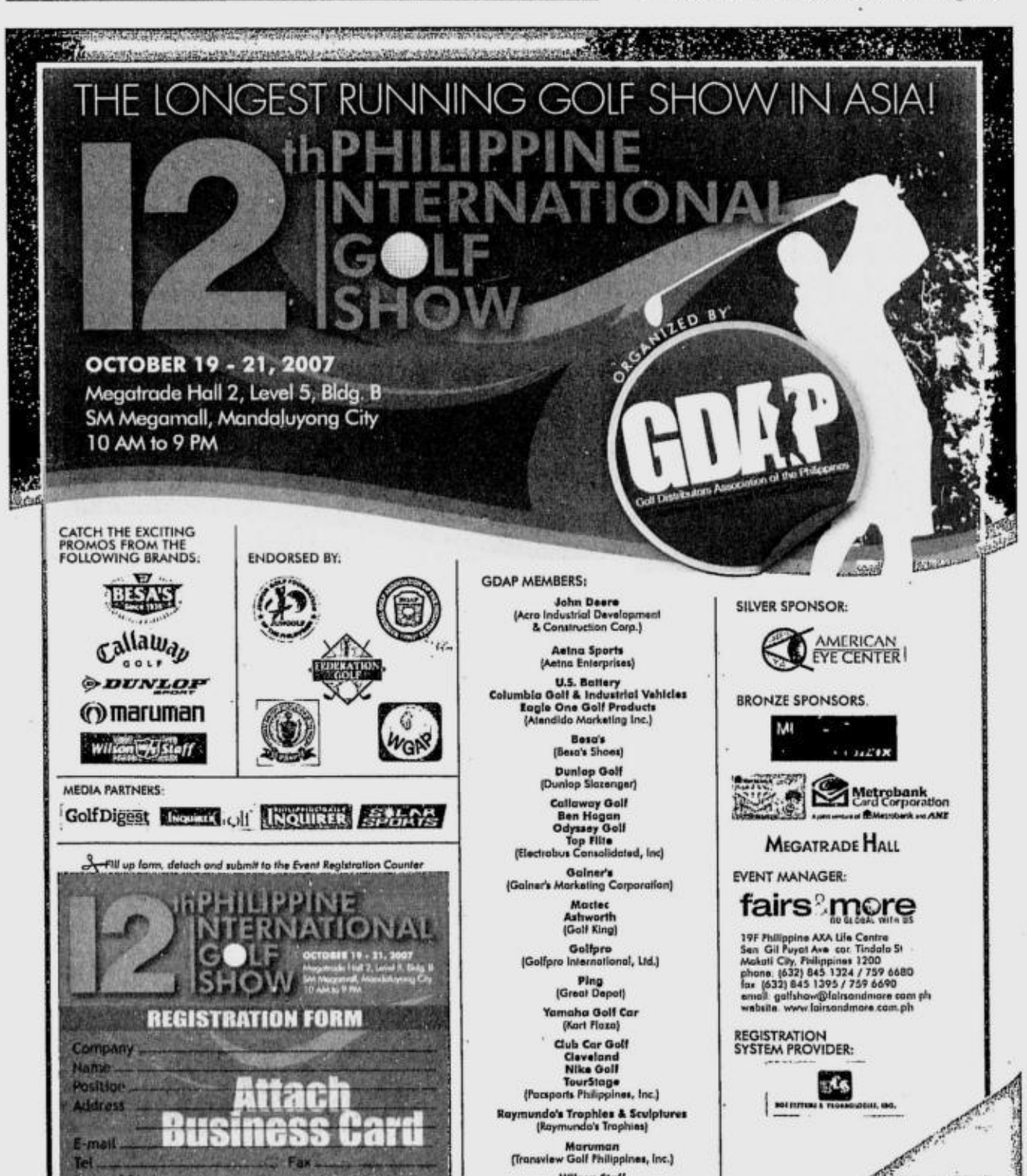
THE MIGHTY FILTER KINGS LEANED ON former UP star Edrick Ferrer to trip the PNP Shooters, 85-76, in the MBT Corporate Cup Wednesday at the RTU gym in Mandaluyong.

Ferrer exploded for 20 points while Roel Assay chipped in 12 markers as the Mighty Filter Kings rebounded from an 88-84 double overtime defeat to Polymasters in the opener.

Also shining for the Gerry's Grill-backed Mighty Filter Kings were Mark Victoria, Clark Torrente and Woody Co, who combined for 25 points.

The Mighty Filter Kings, gunning for their second title in the tournament organized by Metro Basketball Tournament, improved their record to 1-1.

From a slim 48-44 lead, Ferrer joined hands with Co and Asay to key a breakaway and take several 14-point leads early in the payoff period.



Ochoa, Deakin off to G. Britain for World Rally

OCHOA

ACTOR-RACER DOminic Ochoa and motoring columnist James Deakin will watch the World Rally Cup in Great Britain, their prizes for topping their respective divisions in the recent TRS-Ford Focus Media & Celebrity Cup at the Subic International Raceway.

Ochoa and Dealkin will also have the chance to meet racers Marcus Gronholm and the rest of Team RS.

Ochoa copped the Celebrity category crown with a time of 15:34.14. Restaurateur Louie Ysmael placed second (15:38:64) while sportscaster Jinno Rufino took third spot (16:02:14).

Dealkin clinched the title in the Media event after clocking 16:13.55. Johnsy Reyes of Hotwire TV copped the runner-up honors with 16:26.10 while Kit Joaquin of Auto Review is third with 16:59.13

Inclement weather failed to dampen the spirits of the contenders who braved the race. True enough, the first and second heats were action-packed as Ronald delos Reyes of Auto Review veered towards the wall due to a slight miscalculation which cost him a penalty.

LARRY Abarra of Olangapo City (right) pummels his way to a first round victory over Noel Binbernaldo. RAFFY LERMA

Loyola Grand top qualifier

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS, drawing strength from former national tennis player Marty Ilagan, edged Don Enrique Heights Tuesday in Round 1 of the North qualifying tournament of the MyPhone Presents The 16th Intervillage Golf Tournament Series at the Sherwood Hills Golf and Country Club in Cavite.

Ilagan, a four-handicapper, scored 38 points to top Group 1 for players with 0 to 5 handicaps. He beat Casa Valle Verde's Nathaniel Siongco who could only manage 14 points.

Two other LGV players topped their respective divisions as Loyola Grand totaled 299 points in the 12-to-play, eight-to-count team format.

Just one point behind was Don Enrique Heights with Monte Vista/Cinco Hermanos (CHM) and Casa/Valle Verde (CVA) settling for third and fourth with 279 and 220 points, respectively.

The other scorers for LGV were Antonio de Ubago, Ricardo Cabanela and Louie Rabat who swept the first three places in Group 3 (handicap 11-15) .

Abarra, Castro get finals slots

By Dennis U. Eroa, *Inquirer Libre*

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—FILIPINO-American slugger Larry Abarra of Olongapo City punched his way to the bantamweight finals even as the favorites prevailed on the penultimate day of the 2007 Smart National Open boxing championships Friday at the Misamis Oriental Capitol here.

Abarra, a bronze medalist in the 2006 National Open in Tubod, Lanao del Norte, stunned Zamboanga City's Noel Binbernaldo with punishing left and right combinations to the head to score a Referee Stopped Contest-Outclassed win in 1:17 of the first round.

The win set up Abarra against Doha Asian Games bronze medalist Godfrey Castro who stopped Jeffrey Suan of host Misamis Oriental via another RSC-outscored win.

By the time, the referee signaled the end of the one-sided bout, Castro, a member of the national team, was ahead on points, 25-5.

Two battle-scarred veterans—Larry Semillano and Anthony Igusquiza—try to defy Father Time as they advanced to the finals.

Semillano, a 2000 Sydney Olympian representing Philippine Navy, won via RSC-outscored after 56 seconds of the second round over Davao City's Isaac Tijlin.

Semillano, who is now a resident of Olongapo City, guns for the welterweight gold against the tall and powerful Wilfredo Lopez, who also stopped Marlon Borja of Davao City (RSC, second round).

Igusquiza of the Philippine Army engaged veteran Ferdie Gamo in a vicious exchangeof punches right from the opening bell en route to a close 38-36 victory.

Like Semillano, Igusquiza, a bronze medalist in the 1994 Hiroshima Asian Games, is up against Delfin Boholst, also a member of the national team bound for Chicago.

Boholst gave host Misamis Oriental something to cheer about as he hardly worked up a sweat in scoring an RSC-outscored win over Adonis Cabalquinto in 54 seconds of the second round of their light welterweight semis.

Another national training pool member, Bill Vicera of PN/Bago City, made his way to the finals of the pinweight division by beating Rey Mercado of Cotabato via RSC-outclassed with 1:29 minutes left in the first round.

Vicera also faces a tall order in the finals against Davao Del Norte's Rechie Behec, who won on points over the favored Michael Paragoso of Zubiri Boxing Team, 34-28.

It will be Genebert Basadre of the Philippine Army against Joegin Ladon of PN/Bago City-A in the lightweight finals.

SPORTSWATCH

Olivarez clinches 2 tennis titles

SHANINE OLIVAREZ, THE COUNTRY'S NO. 1 PLAYER IN THE GIRLS' 14-under division, captured two titles in the Philta-TGI Friday held recently at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Olivarez, youngest daughter of former Paranaque Mayor Pablo Olivarez, won the 16-under title over Macy Gonzales, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2, and later annexed the 14-under title after beating Samantha Coyiuto, 6-1, 6-3. In other finals results, Trudy Gine Amoranto routed Macy Solon, 6-1, 6-3, to clinch the 18-under title while Crizabelle Paulino nipped Akiko de Guzman, 7-6 (1), 6-4, to pocket the 12-under title. In the boys' division, Kyle Cordero beat John Michael Tamayo, 7-5, 6-4, to claim the 18-under title while Kim Ivor Saraza ripped Rolee Joven, 6-1, 6-1 for the 16-under title.

LGBA derby goes to Araneta Oct. 9 and 11

THE LUZON GAMECOCK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LGBA) 7-STAG DERBY series, which has attracted 339 entries so far, goes to Araneta Coliseum on Oct. 9 and 11. Three-stag eliminations will be held on Tuesday (90 fights) and another 3- tag on Thursday. Qualifiers will advance to the finals on Oct. 16 and 18, also at the Big Dome. LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz announced yesterday that second leg qualifiers from the eliminations held at Lucky Sports Complex must compete at Araneta on Oct. 16 or 18. Those who topped the event with three wins each were Pol Estrellado (St. Francis I), Nelson Uy (Lucky NU Supernatural) and Boy Tanyag and Adol Rebenito (CRB Farms). For details, call Taz Lunasco at 09205851940 and 09175777829.

CHAMPION: Majority Floor Leader and 4th district Councilor Ariel Inton (center) hands over the Sportsmanship Trophy to the Guilly's Island Basketball Team that emerged overall champion in the recent Inter-Restaurant Basketball Tournament held at the Pinyahan Covered Court.

British Cup Racing Festival today at Sta. Ana

THE 2007 BRITISH CUP RACING FESTIVAL KICKS OFF TODAY AT THE SANta Ana Park with the imports tangling against locally-bred gallopers. Champion import Ever Mine Now (Aus) and local kingpin Real Spicy are set for a return match-up in the second leg of the Philracom Imported vs Local Challenge Series. Smarting from his recent defeat against the Aussie-bred in a 1,450-meter group encounter at the same track, Real Spicy is out for revenge over the lengthier 1,800-meter route and will be ridden this time around by jockey Jesse Guce, who replaces previous rider Patricio Dilema.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Ort/Tri)—Honor Rose (6), Starlight Express (2), Borthstorm (5), Santo Santito (3)
Race 2—(Ort/Tri)—madam Composta (3), Touchmenot (4), Madera (6), Magic Thunder (7)
Race 3—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Calvin's Fury (8), Speedy Kim (4), Truly Inspired/Red Gown (6), Sunday Street (3), Rogue Knight (9)
Race 4—(Ort/Tri)—Devil In Disguise (6), Malikas (1), Memory Of Fire (2), Yes Sir I'm Yours (5)
Race 5—(Ort/Tri)—Revelation (3), Lady Beware (6), Panabugho (5), Pamparga Queen (4)
Race 6—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Tall Wind (6), Myrel Blue/Chesk's Real (4), Victory Joe (9), Real Proud (3), Famous Girl (7)
Race 7—(Tri)—Regal Boom (3), Fairy Queen (1), Imminent Star (5)
Race 8—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Kryptonite (3), Boot Legs (11), White Princess (10), Lady Inday (9), Money For Rap (12)
Race 9—(Ort/Tri)—Ever Mine Now (5), La Tienna (6), Real Spicy (3), Glory And Honour (1)
Race 10—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Dancing Slow (4), Leica N' Raven (7), Holy King (9), Honest To Goodness/Pirouette (2), China Girl (3)
Race 11—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Friendly Venture (6), Windsong (4), BMI Baby (2), Western Champ (1), Reptoid (7)
Race 12—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Happy Again (2), Wild Orphan (10), Iron King (4), Collective Dreams (9), Lovable Trisha (7)
Race 13—(Super 6/Ort/Tri)—Prima Vera (3), Maslado (6), Words Of Joy (14), Hammer It Home (11), All All All (1), Angel Sky (13)

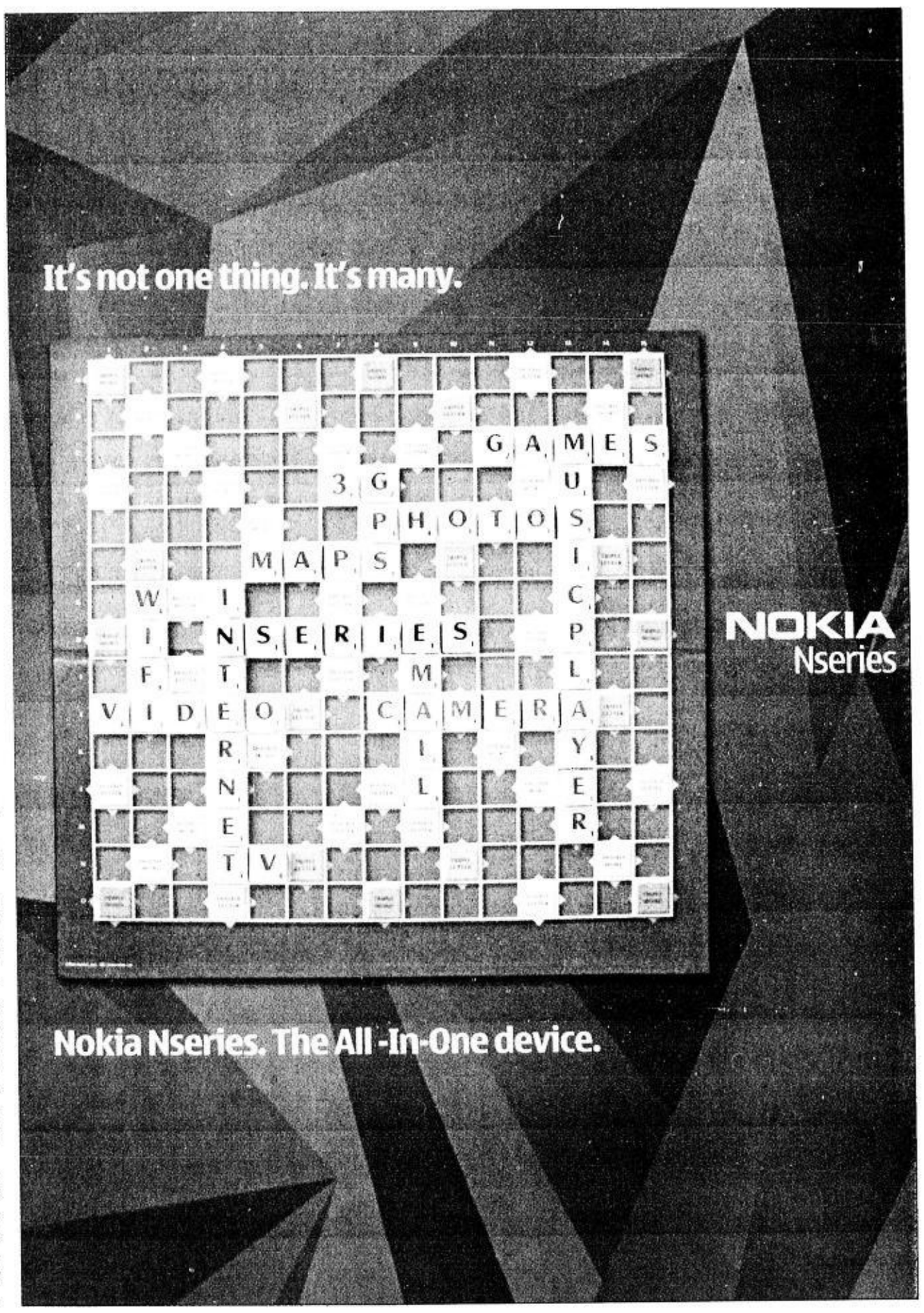
Don Juan Derby up at SLLP

THE BIGGEST NUMber of competitors in the annual Don Juan Derby are entered this year as the major event organized by the Klub Don Juan de Manila fires off Oct. 14 at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

There will be 11 local and imported 3-year-olds entered in one of the biggest events for colts and fillies, who will vie for the total prize of P1.58 million.

This year's champion will receive a top prize of P900,000.

The official line-up are: Don Antonio Floirendo's Traditional with Fernando Raquel Jr. on board; Joseph Dyhengco's Ididitmyway—MA Alvarez; Jose Mari Franco's Copper Dew—Val Dilema; Bayani Coching's Mercurio—John Ralph Saulog; Hermie Esguerra's Defiant—Jeff Zarate; lawyer Alex Carandang's Beautiful Pet - Deo Fernandez; Joe and Aida Arceo's Deputy Stravinsky - Louie Balboa; Boni Mantilla's No Fear —JB Hernandez; Honorato Neri's My Happiness—John Cordero; Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos' Joletski—Kelvin Abobo; and Ruben Laureano's Irene's Fantasy —Antonio Alcasid Jr.



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Sunday BIZ

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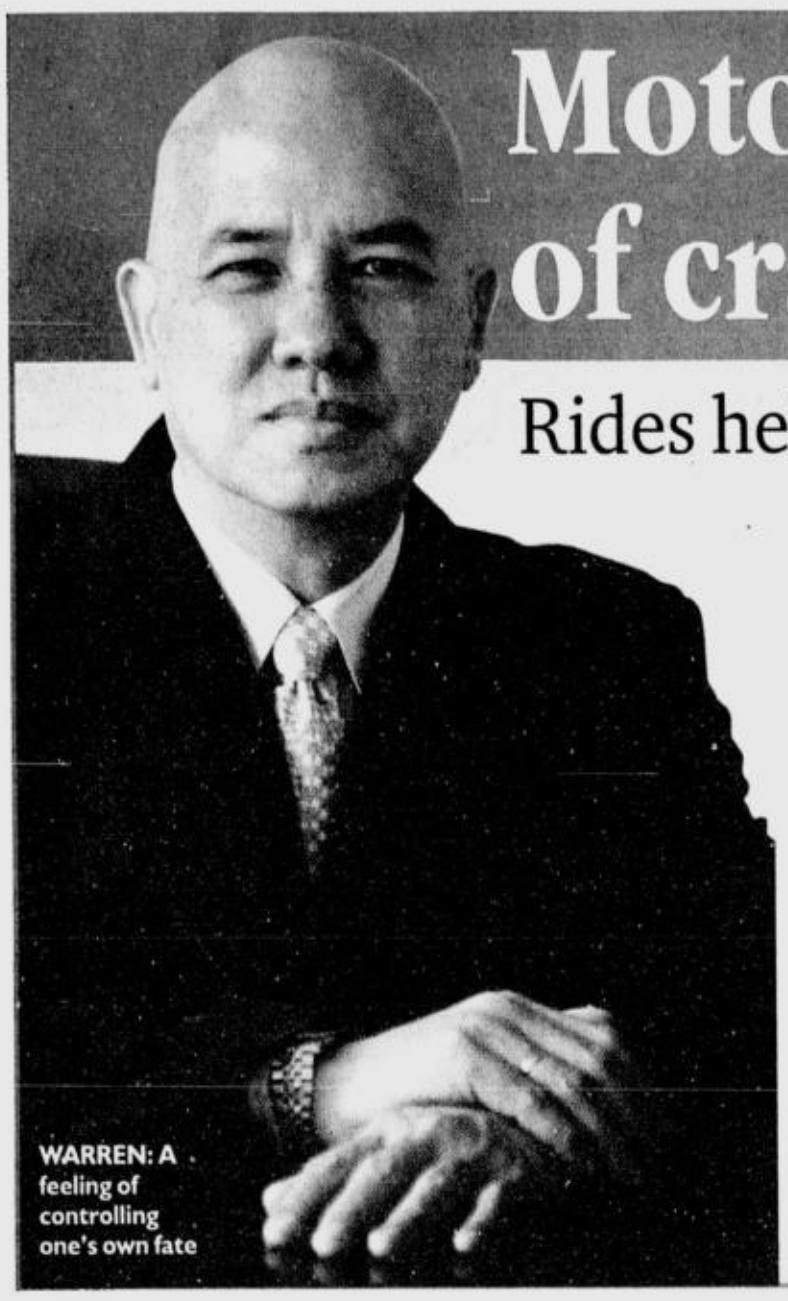

WARREN: A feeling of controlling one's own fate

Motorbikes give CEO of crane firm a lift

Rides help him rev up for a hectic week

By Amy R. Remo

SUNDAYS WILL FIND DENnis L. Warren either in the kitchen, fixing what he calls a "simple" feast for a family dinner, or zooming along the countryside in his big bike, a BMW 1150R.

Warren, president and CEO of MCG Philippines Inc., says these activities keep him fairly relaxed, as he prepares for a hectic workweek, when he has to deal with even "bigger matters."

Literally bigger that is, because Warren's business deals with the selling and renting of tower cranes, a common, looming fixture at any construction site.

Usually more than a hundred feet tall, tower cranes are used to lift heavy construction materials such as steel, large tools, concrete, bricks, among others.

The 54-year-old Warren relates that in 1998, he put up MCG, formerly Potain Inc., a joint venture between himself and US-based Manitowoc Crane Group, the leading worldwide manufacturer of construction cranes. Manitowoc acquired the French firm Potain in 2001.

Warren also manages another company, his own Pacific Orient Winds Corp., a local distributor of construction equipment that also represented Potain here.

Bad timing

"Putting up a new company in 1998 was bad timing for us because of the Asian crisis. *Para kaming naghahabol ng* ticket *sa* Titanic (It was like grabbing a ticket to ride the Titanic)," he says.

Warren says that up until 2002, those years had been the most difficult as real estate had plunged while most construction works had been shelved or suspended.

He relates that they had only 15 people and five cranes for rent at that time.

"Lucky for us that the mother company of Potain was very supportive and decid-

MOTORBIKES/ B3

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Young shoe designer** eyes global market /B2

■ **Vegetable porters** breathe life, color to trading post /B2-1

COA report on GOCCs and gov't agencies out

TODAY'S ISSUE OF THE INQUIRER CARRIES a report of the Commission on Audit on the financial performance of government-owned and -controlled corporations and national government agencies. The report is on a special pullout section of the Classified Ads.

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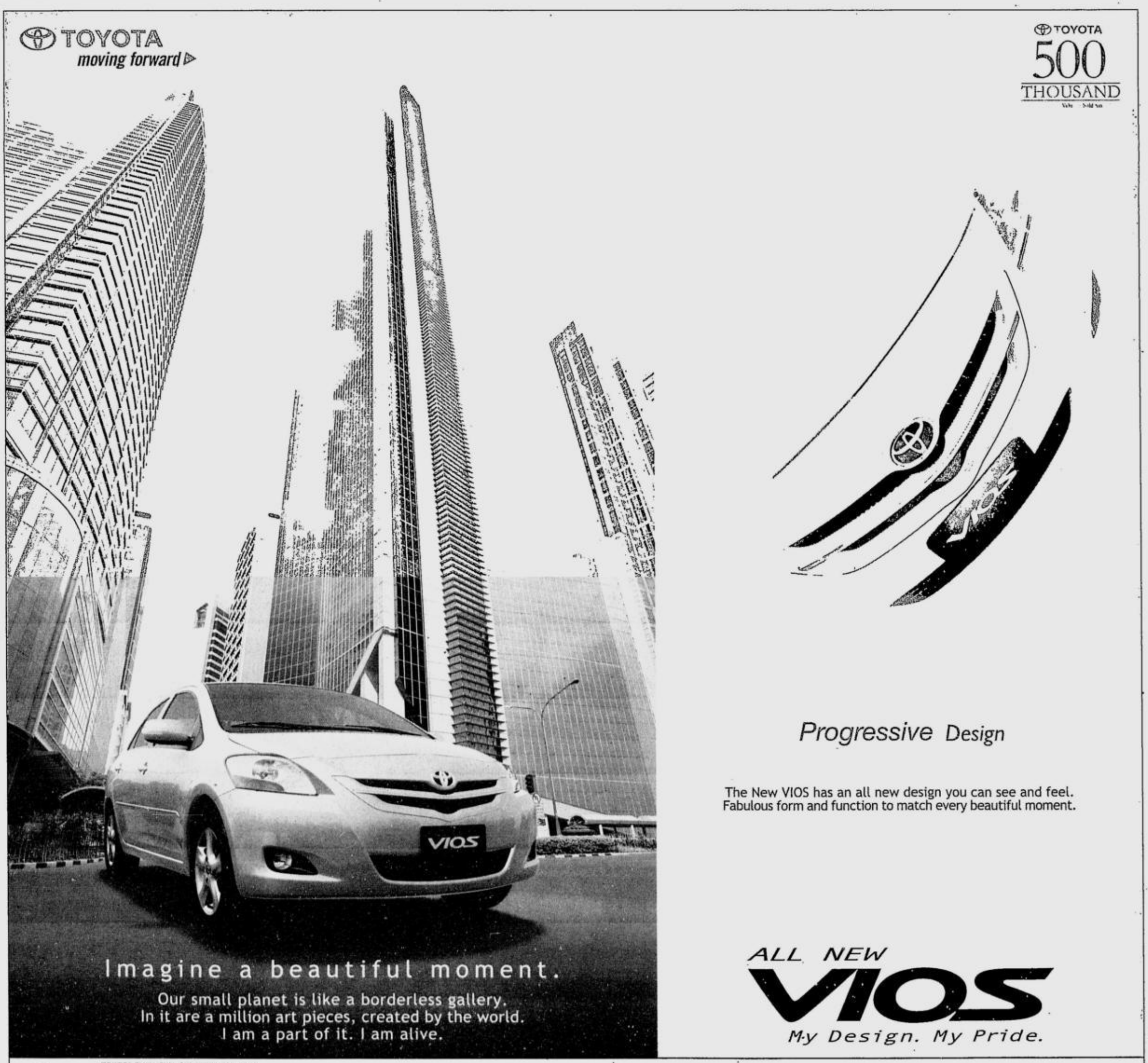

TWO of the thousands of fashionable, yet comfortable, shoe creations by Charlene Yap.

Charlene Yap pursues her dream to conquer the fashion world through her trendy, comfy shoes

Bitten by the Imelda bug

YAP: It's important to keep focused.

By Abigail L. Ho

FORMER FIRST LADY IMELDA MARcos has proven how one's love for shoes can put one on the world map and even the English dictionary.

Sarah Jessica Parker's Carrie Bradshaw character in "Sex and the City" has turned into a fashion icon, even long after the series has ended, with her quirky yet classy fashion sense and her uber-chic Manolo Blahniks.

But being neither a political figure nor a fictional TV character does not stop Charlene Yap from pursuing her dream to conquer the fashion world. No, she doesn't plan on owning thousands of shoes or living each day in Manolos.

What she wants is to share with people the thousands of fashionable shoes she has created and will continue to create, and to place her Ichigo shoes and bags on the fashion map, here and abroad.

"I've always loved shoes. I want to give the market something different—trendy yet affordable enough to be purchased on a whim," says Charlene, or Charm to her friends and loyal clients.

Her collection of ballet flats—made from a mix of fabrics with cute prints, faux leopard and zebra fur, patent and croc leather, and suede—have been a hit in the bazaar scene since its launch late last year.

Barely a year into the business, Charm already has a stream of loyal customers and sold-out collections that have *fashionistas* clamoring for more.

And she's not one who'll sacrifice comfort for fashion.

Her shoes, according to customers' comments on her Multiply site (ichigoshoes.multiply.com), are "some of the most comfortable shoes we've even worn."

"I guarantee my shoes won't give your feet blisters. You can walk in them all day and not feel any pain. My customers will vouch for that. And I should know since I also wear my own creations," she says.

Her shoes have already gained such a following among *fashionistas* that Ichigo's collections now also include unique and fashion-forward bags and laptop cases.

No inkling

Despite her innate artistic inclination, Charm had no inkling that she'll be a shoes and bags designer, having graduated from the University of Santo Tomas with a BS Architecture degree and from the Philippine School of Interior Design with an interior design degree.

ONE of her signature bag creations

A licensed architect, she worked for two years in an architectural firm in Makati before figuring out that she was on the wrong career path.

"I didn't enjoy my job. I was really bored because I mostly just sat in front of my computer and had to revise blueprints over and over again," she relates. "I guess I'm also naturally impatient. As an architect, you don't see the results of your hard work until after one or two years. So I quit."

While trying to figure out what to do with her life, Charm went to Shanghai for four months to study Mandarin.

"When I got back, I still didn't know what to do with my life. All I knew was that I wanted to start something on my own. And since I liked shoes, I got into shoes and bags (designing)," she says.

Instant hit

Armed with P60,000 borrowed from her dad, Charm started sketching her designs, scouring the streets of Divisoria, Marikina and China for raw materials, looking for a factory to make her shoes, and drafting a marketing plan—not necessarily in that order.

"I was a one-woman show. I did everything on my own," she relates.

After finalizing her first collection, with her shoes made by a small factory in Rizal province with which she now has an exclusive contract, she started selling her products in pre-Christmas bazaars all over Metro Manila.

Her shoes and bags were a big hit—so big that she was able to recoup her P60,000 capital after joining just three bazaars.

"Then my friends encouraged me to join Multiply and sell my products there," she says. And, cliché as this sounds, the rest is history.

After becoming a bazaar and online shopping favorite, Ichigo now has a stall at the Greenhills Shopping Center where old and new clients alike can sample her creations.

Despite her success, she says each day is still a struggle, considering how she has to compete not only with local brands but also with lower-priced shoes and bags from China and Korea.

On her toes

She says she always has to be on her toes, keeping up with trends and anticipating upcoming ones. She also has to be on the lookout for new materials that she can work with, as well as new venues to sell her products.

To better manage her business, she relates that she's now trying to be more systematic—setting certain days for certain tasks.

This will make dealing with her growing number of clients—and their ever growing demands for new stuff—easier.

Hard work, focus and a good reputation are the key factors to which she attributes her success now. It also helps that she knows the business she has gotten into and has enough creativity to keep churning out new designs.

"But you also have to realize that not everything is perfect, that not all your designs will sell. You have to live with that. It's also important to maintain your focus. Concentrate on what you have and don't just look at what your competitors are doing," she adds.

Provincial brand eyed for Benguet's ...

From page B4

really needed a wake up call.

They are the following: Galing Bataan (Bataan), Tatak Bulakenyo (Bulacan), Siempre Aurora (Aurora), Vida Pampanga (Pampanga), Tarlac's Very Own (Tarlac), Zambales' Finest (Zambales), Proudly Novo Ecijano (Nueva Ecija) and Obrang Cavite (Cavite).

These brands come in the form of seals printed beside the company name that produced the product.

"They serve as a quality seal and mark of recall," they said.

The seals could not be copied since the Packaging Resource Development Center had registered them while the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) approved the product contents, they said.

What about Benguet?

Some officials suggested using either "Benguet Fresh," "Benguet Highlands" or "Benguet's Cold Breeze" to market the province's products.

Motorbikes give CEO ...

From page B1

ed to pursue its Philippine operations, instead of shutting down," he says.

MCG then became a service hub, where Potain sources Filipino technicians, all of whom are licensed mechanical engineers trained in France. When needed, Potain then brings these skilled Filipino workers to construction sites where its cranes operate, including Hong Kong, Singapore, India, China and Nepal.

"This setup had helped us tide over the crisis and offset the losses in the local business," Warren says.

Key to survival

Another key to their survival, Warren says, was maintaining good customer relations and ensuring that the few customers they had left were all satisfied with their cranes and services.

If a major equipment such as a tower crane breaks down, Warren says damages could amount to $100,000 per day of construction delay.

Thus, Warren says his schedule entails a daily inspection of the company's cranes and frequent visits to his clients to look for possible partnerships in future projects.

"We partner with firms and construction companies as early as during the bidding process, whether or not they get the project. In this way, we build more lasting partnerships with our clients," he adds.

Warren's daily grind, patience and persistence had duly paid off.

Business started to pick up in 2003, increasing Potain's installed base as the leading provider of tower cranes with a 60-percent market share in the country.

"We have acquired 100-percent customer satisfaction from our past and present clients, both local and foreign, and as attested by their written testimonials," he says.

Repeat business

Warren adds that this ultimately translated into 100-percent repeat business.

MCG now sells and rents tower cranes to various companies in construction, power, hydroelectric and mining industries.

Clients include SAE-EEI, Makati Development Corp., DDT Construct, DMCI, Summa Kumagai Inc., Sumitomo Construction, Holcim, John Holland and Leighton.

It was Potain's tower cranes that helped built Pacific Plaza, The New Medical City, The Manansala in Rockwell, to name a few.

Depending on the size, a crane, when bought, may cost anywhere between $50,000 and $10 million. Those found in the country are of medium size, costing around P20 million.

Cranes can last up to 30 years if well-maintained. However, Potain's oldest crane in its rent fleet is only two years old.

Taking a breather

While not remaining complacent of MCG's status, Warren has had more time for his family and to indulge in other activities such as scuba diving, cooking and riding motorbikes.

Warren relates he has been cooking for more than 10 years now, mostly for a Sunday dinner for his wife, four kids and two grandchildren of meals he had learned from recipe books and cooking shows.

Sometimes, he would cook for special guests and foreign visitors.

"Recipe books are what I would look up in a bookstore and what I would read every night," he says. "My kids love variety, so I try to cook up something new every time."

His signature dishes? Crab cake salad, pasta primavera, mango flambé and crème brulee.

Warren says he can make pasta noodles from scratch. His employees even gave him a pasta machine, to cut the dough into noodles.

On most Sunday mornings, Warren would join rides with BOSS, a BMW motorcycle club. Some rides took him to Pampanga, Rizal, Tagaytay and as far as Ilocos.

The bike, he says, was a gift from his wife, Baby, for their 25th wedding anniversary in 2003.

"I've always liked motorbikes but I was always told it was too dangerous. But I wanted to do something, which I can tell myself when I grow old that 'I've been there, done that,'" he says.

Warren used to own a Honda cruiser but found it too relaxed for his taste.

He says he used to ride this cruiser mostly within the village at first, for practice riding, until he felt confident enough to take to the streets.

"It's not so much about the speed but the feeling that you're in control of your own world at the time being," he says.

At the moment, Warren hopes it isn't just in cooking or biking where he can feel this sense of control—he likewise hopes MCG maintains the upper hand in the crane business in the years to come.

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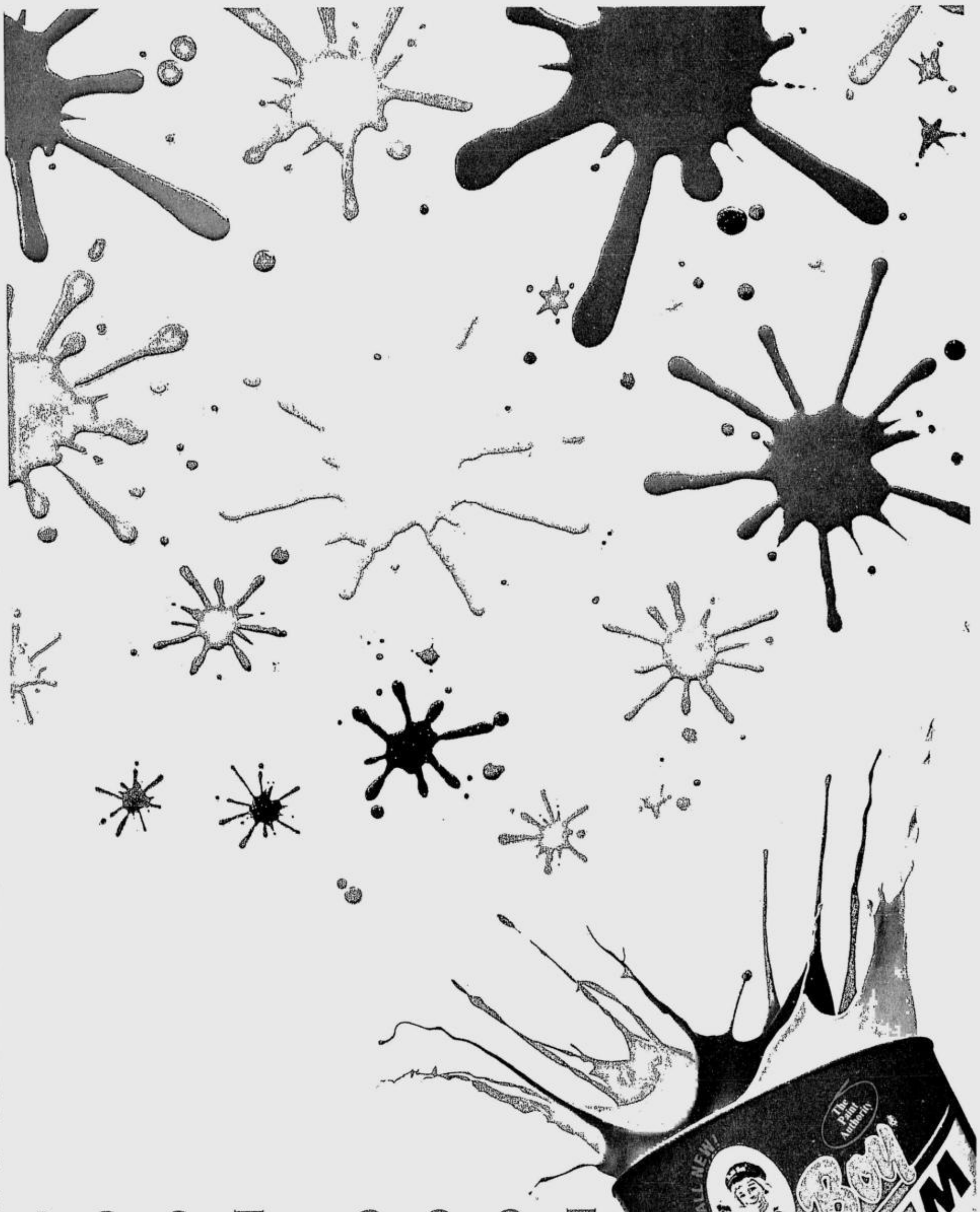

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Sunday BIZ

Dealing with betrayal

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

When our trust is violated, we demand greater scrutiny...

"In the history of the four major professional sports in the United States (football, basketball, baseball, and hockey), there has never been an umpire, referee, or other in-game official indicted or arrested for fixing the outcomes of a game. That is, until now.

Law officials have revealed that Tim Donaghy, a 13-year veteran NBA official placed bets on games he officiated over the past few seasons. Purportedly, Donaghy had a gambling problem and was approached by organized mobsters for his involvement in slanting the final results of games. By refereeing the game to favor one team, Donaghy may have affected the final score by a few points—enough to upset the point spread of the game and ensure he cashed in on the money he had wagered.

At the time of this article, federal investigators are probing for information related to Donaghy's connections, and they are reviewing the way he officiated a selection of games. The National Basketball Association is offering full cooperation to the FBI as it gathers facts and evidence.

Most sacred trust

The whole sports empire, a $213 billion industry, rests on the assumption that athletes are competing against one another on an equal footing. Fans and players alike expect impartiality and fairness from sports officials to protect the purity of the competition.

When Tim Donaghy chose to profit personally by fixing games, he betrayed the league which employed him, the players he interacted with, and fans of the game of basketball. In the words of NBA commissioner, David Stern, Donaghy "has betrayed the most sacred trust in professional sports."

How does a leader deal with betrayal? What steps can be taken when trust is violated in a highly visible way? It will be interesting to watch the unfolding drama of the NBA's reaction to the Donaghy scandal. Here are some principles David Stern and the league may use when they take action.

Restoring trust

1. Leaders eliminate suspicion.

When our trust is violated, we demand greater scrutiny into the affairs of the violator. That's the reason transparency has become a buzzword in business. After being deceived, we are suspicious that what duped us once may dupe us again. When accounting scandal after accounting scandal came to light, public reaction called for more open financial record-keeping and clearer business transactions. We were outraged by corporate duplicity and determined to prevent it from reoccurring.

Leaders do their utmost to clear away suspicion. You can be certain David Stern will offer up every shred of information within his power to aid the FBI's investigation of Donaghy—nothing can be perceived as hidden or swept under the rug. Videos of games Donaghy officiated, emails he sent to the league, and conversations he had with fellow officials will all be brought to light. In addition, the NBA may work with its referees' union to put greater accountability measures on its referees. Every action will be taken with the intent of proving the NBA's seriousness in preventing dishonest officials from besmirching the game's honor again.

2. Leaders cut ties with corruption

Something in us isn't quite comfortable when a formerly convicted embezzler returns to work at our bank—or when a recently released child molester moves to the neighborhood. Past behavior remains in our minds. We want to know that criminals will be locked up and deprived of the opportunity to harm us again.

The NBA will likely hand out a lifetime ban to Tim Donaghy so that he will never again be able to officiate in the league. When an individual's deceitful actions bring shame and humiliation to an organization, his or her employment must be terminated immediately. Consequences must be swift and severe. Leaders cannot show tolerance for deception. While personal forgiveness may be extended, corporate reinstatement is not an option.

3. Leaders reassert values

In the aftermath of corruption, leaders take the opportunity to reeducate all personnel in the organization's values. The referee's union and the NBA will likely work hand-in-hand to reaffirm their expectations of officials. Ethics courses may be issued to incoming referees. Periodic reviews may be held to ensure the behavior of referees is in accordance with league values. Themes of impartiality, honest, and truthfulness will be trumpeted in meetings and training

For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please email us at bingericta@gmail.com or call 8132049/2732 and ask for Bing Ericta. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell. God bless!

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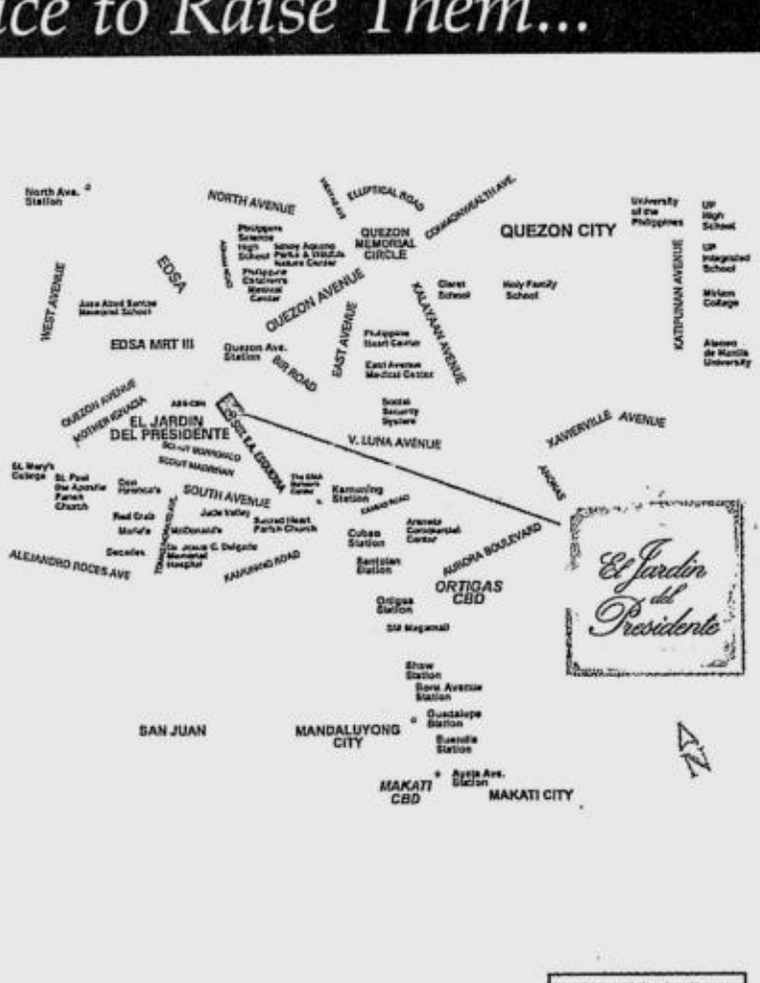

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Provincial brand eyed for Benguet vegetables

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—DESPITE BEING the home of the country's best potatoes, carrots and cabbages, Benguet still lags behind in the business of product labeling that could gain more commercial value for vegetables.

Entrepreneurs have pushed for improved packaging of the province's processed vegetables. But the competitive edge in production has yet to impact on the local industry of fries, chips, juices and ready mix vegetables.

The reason, according to the Institute of Social Research and Development (IBRD) at the Benguet State University (BSU) here, is that there exists a void in the marketing strategy of the province's vegetables—the lack of a provincial brand.

According to Dr. Klondy Dagupen, IBRD director, a study the institute conducted among consumers in more than 10 major cities nationwide found that the origin of vegetables figured prominently in the consumers' choice of products.

The consumers preferred Baguio and Benguet vegetables, she said.

"But they gave a blank stare when asked how they knew if the vegetables came from Baguio, Benguet or other provinces," Dagupen said.

"Obviously, our vegetables are not appropriately branded," she said.

Branding a must

To solve the problem, Dagupen said local officials must strive to implement three measures—improve marketing efficiency to reduce retail costs, promote good agricultural practices among farmers and initiate attractive packaging and prominent labeling. She said the third makes provincial branding a must.

The IBRD's graduate school students conducted the study Dagupen cited.

They bared their findings recently before the province's mayors and agriculture and trade officials to trigger an official response to the creation of a provincial brand.

Gerry Lab-oyan, class president, said Benguet is actually behind in the business of promoting vegetables through a provincial brand.

"We have packaged vegetables in the market. But mentioning Benguet as their place of origin pales. The packs have no seal to identify that they are the best products in Benguet," he said.

Lab-oyan, who is also the general manager of the Cooperative Bank of Benguet, said consumer taste nowadays has become choosy and discriminating.

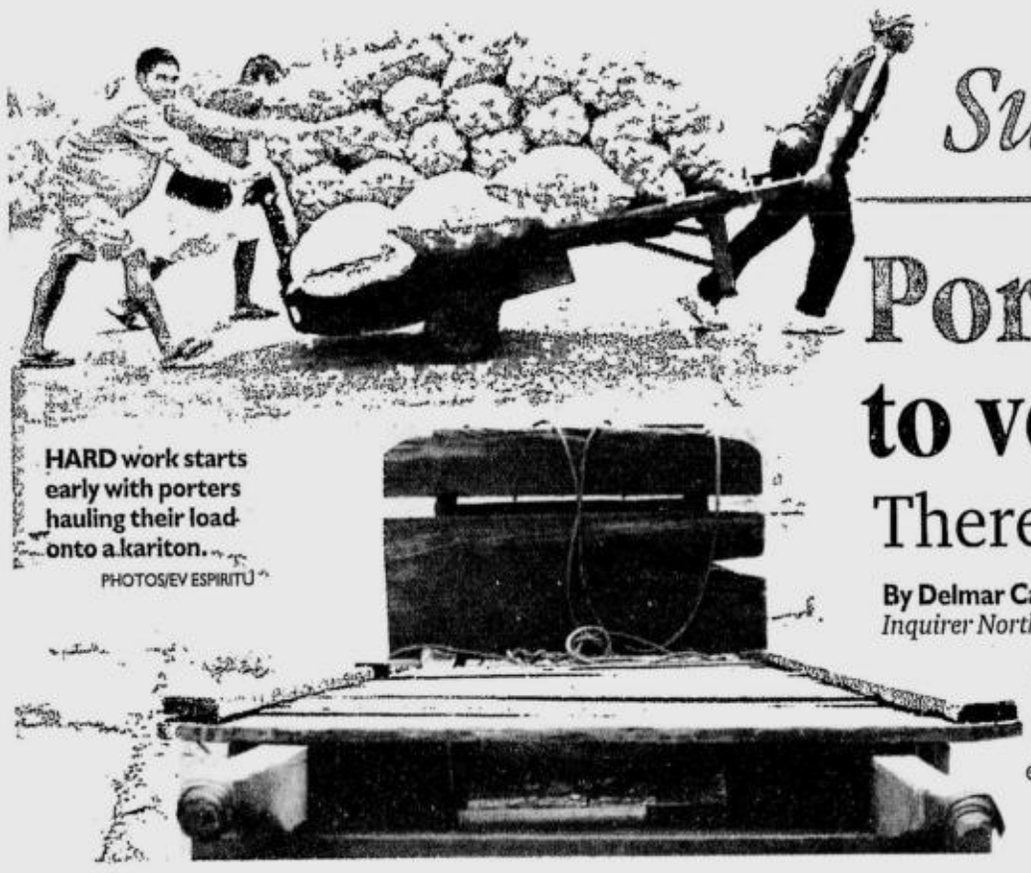
Threat to market

Other regions producing the same vegetables are now also threatening the province's grip of the vegetable market, he said. "We must brand our vegetables now to thwart the challenge poised by vegetables coming from the Visayas, Davao and Bukidnon," he said.

Lab-oyan's classmates studied the brands of other provinces and found that Benguet

PROVINCIAL/ B3

SundayBIZ



HARD work starts early with porters hauling their load onto a kariton. PHOTOS/EV ESPIRITU

Porters breathe life to vegetable industry

There's life, color in trading post

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

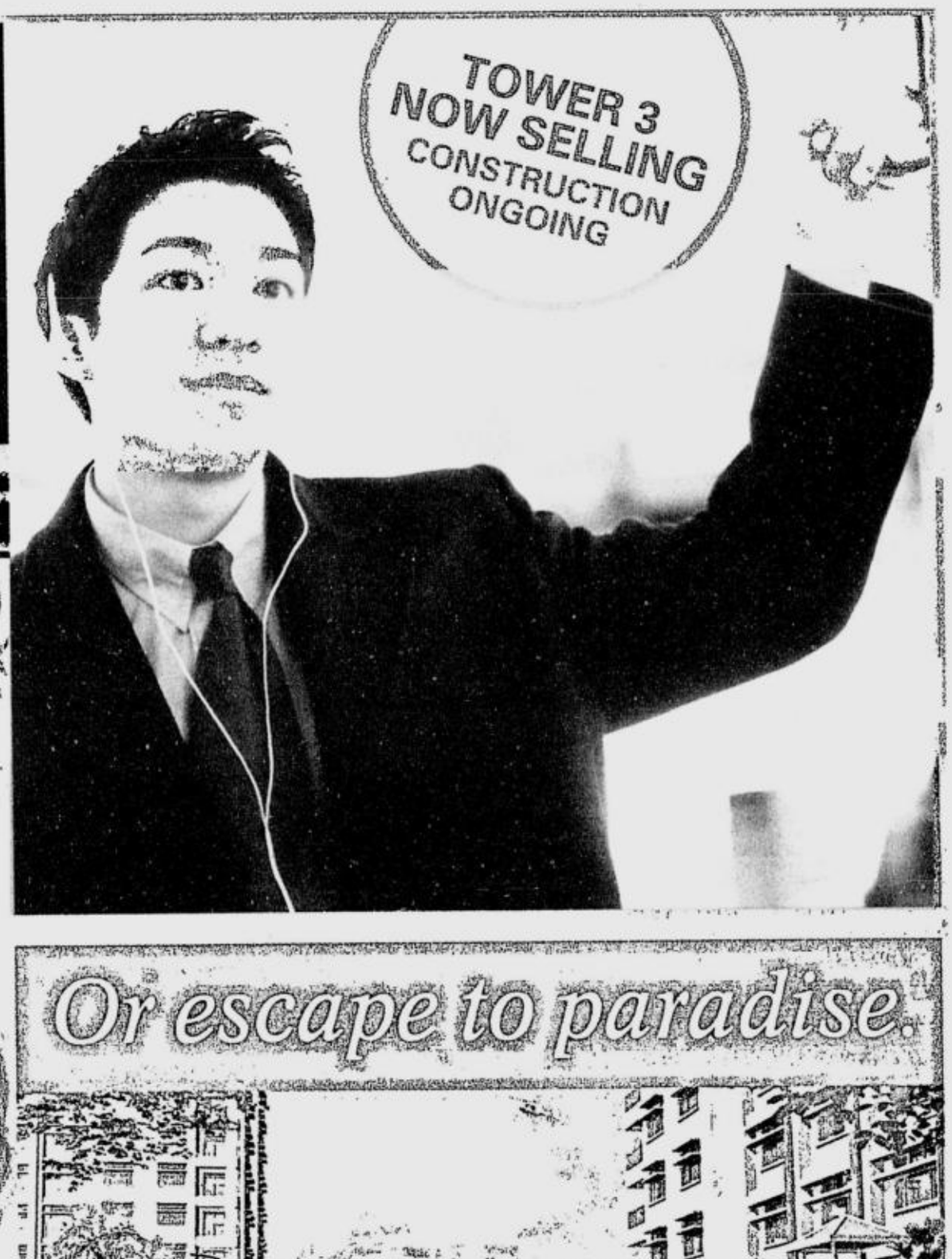
LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET — Rain or shine, they must stay healthy and work to earn their meal for the day.

For the 730 porters at the vegetable trading post here, life begins at daybreak when they inch their way in between queues of trucks, pushing and pulling their carts to haul tons of vegetables daily from the trading post here.

Locally known as "komboys," these porters give life and color to the busiest

PORTERS/ B2-3

A PORTER [illegible] an average of [illegible] plastic sacks of vegetables. [illegible]



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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

LPBC: A legacy of musical achievement

THE LAS PIÑAS BOYS CHOIR, LPBC, THE well-known group of young singing boys proud to be identified as one of the few surviving "Boys Choirs" in the Philippines, has established themselves not only in the cultural and musical inheritance of our country but in the local and international music scene as well. Under the artistic direction of professor Armando Salarza, the sixth and incumbent conductor and musical director of the LPBC, the group has been regular performers in the annual Bamboo Organ International Music Festival and emerged champion at the 2005 Vivere Choral Competition and has gotten the 2005 and 2006 Aliw Awards nominations as Best Chorale Group.

With these remarkable achievements, the LPBC has taken on the challenge of launching their new theme "Las Piñas Boys Choir: A Legacy of Musical Achievement." professors Salarza, a former boys choir member himself, is now rigorously preparing the LPBC and is in search of new challenges to widen their horizons and share their rich musical heritage. The LPBC will thus be representing the Philippines in the forthcoming World Choir Games in Graz, Austria on July 9 to 10, 2008 and will be having a concert tour in Vienna, Berlin and Bonn.

The Las Piñas Boys Choir was founded in 1969 by a Belgian priest Fr.Leo Renier with the purpose of forming a choir to complement the historic Bamboo Organ, housed in the Parish Church of St. Joseph, some 11km south of Manila. The group is composed of young boys between the ages of 8 and 15. All boys are enrolled at the St. Joseph's Academy where they enjoy academic scholarships and are directly exposed to the various cultural activities offered in and outside the institution.

In 1974, the group earned first place in the Third National Competition of Children's Choirs. After winning the title of National Champion regular invitations followed at Malacañang Palace. At the Cultural Center of the Philippines, they joined in performances and productions such as Bernstein's Mass (1976) Brahms' Requiem (1978) Puccini's La Tosca with the San Francisco Opera (1979) Mozart's Magic Flute with the Opera Company of Boston (1983) Bizet's Carmen (1985) and Britten's War Requiem (1992). In 1989, 3 members of the choir were selected to join "The World's Little Singers" in Paris.

It is at the annual International Bamboo Organ Festival held at St. Joseph's Parish, Bamboo Organ Church that the boys perform the great masterpieces of religious music, among these works are: the great masses by J. Haydn and W. A. Mozart; the St. John's Passion, the B minor Mass and several cantatas by J. S. Bach; anthems by G. Fr. Handel; Misa ng Sambayanan Pilipino by F. Feliciano; and the Gloria and Magnificat by A.Vivaldi. Few choirs, definitely no children's choir in the country, are given the opportunity to be exposed in this way and with such high exacting standards.

Several former members have chosen a career in music here and abroad, or are active in the cultural life of Las Piñas, thus ensuring the future of a tradition established around the Bamboo Organ. Among them is Cealwyn Tagle, the first and only pipe organ builder in the Philippines, and Professor Armando Salarza, who became the conductor and musical director of the Las Piñas Boys Choir in 2003. Professor Salarza's formation in Graz and Vienna as organist and church musician for 10 years helped greatly in promoting the quality of the voices and the discipline of the group. Under his guidance, they bagged first place in the Vivere Choral Competition in 2005, and got nominated twice as Best Chorale Group in the 2005 and 2006 Aliw Awards.

Through long and enduring years of hard work and success, the Las Piñas Boys Choir has established a cultural inheritance in the local and international music scene. This year-long identity has remarkably elevated their status and gave them sole reason to launch their new theme 'Las Piñas Boys Choir: A legacy of musical achievement'. Last July 14, they had their first major concert entitled 'Journey to the World' - Part I at the Phil-am Life Theater, UN Ave Manila and to be followed by Part 2 at SM Mall of Asia Centerstage on Oct. 13, at 8 p.m.

The 38 years of the Las Piñas Boys Choir (LPBC) have proven that there are still young people who feel rewarded not by money or stardom but by the mere satisfaction of a good performance, and who never stop striving for perfection: a refreshing sound in a country faced with so many difficulties.

For inquiries, please call the St. Joseph's Academy at tel. no. 820-5454 local 121 and look for Zeny or Jan or the Bamboo Organ Foundation Inc at tel. no. 510-3839.

SBC, ADB SIGN LOAN PROGRAM FOR SMES

Security Bank Corporation (SBC) recently signed a P500 million Guarantee Facility Deed with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for small and medium enterprises (SME) operating in the Philippines. The two banks have vowed to strengthen the SME market by providing small and medium-sized businesses with SBC's wide array of credit products backed by ADB's partial guarantee. Eligible SMEs can access from P4 million to as much as P20 million through accredited programs. SBC president and CEO Alberto S. Villarosa (third) led the signing ceremony with ADB principal director of the office of co-financing Werner E. Liepach (second) along with ADB investment officer Pamela L. Bracey and SBC senior vice president Patricia May T. Siy.

RINA PARTNERS WITH CONFITARMA FOR IMAPHIL

Ugo Salerno, chief executive officer and managing director of Registro Italiano Navale (Rina) explains their partnership with the association of Italian Shipowners (Confitarma) in creating the Italian Maritime Academy in the Philippines (IMAPhil). Mr Salerno is seen in photo with the panel in the presidential table, (from left): Giosue Vezzuto, Rina area manager for Australia and Indonesia; Captain Teofilo Nieto Jr, IMAPhil training director; Captain Nicolo Terrei, IMAPhil general manager; Roberto Cazzulo, technical services international relations marine division vice director and IMAPhil chair; Michele Francioni, Registro Italiano Navale.

TAPALLA COMPLETES 'TRAIN THE TRAINER PROGRAM'

Valerie C. Tapalla, managing director of the Wilma Cruz-Tapalla Academe of Speech & Etiquette, has recently completed her 'Train the Trainer Program' from the famous etiquette school, The Emily Post Institute in America. Tapalla (left) is shown receiving her certificate and licensing agreement from Peter Post (right) director of the Emily Post Institute in a ceremony held at the Hardrock Hotel in Chicago. Tapalla said her school will immediately offer the Emily Post Etiquette Program in the Philippines. For inquiries contact 723-4118 or visit www.wcacademe.com.

REJUVENATING CELEBRATIONS AT BIOESSENCE SERENITY SPA

Whether dropping down dead in hunting for those bargain finds, or instantly grabbing your friends for pampering from head to foot, with lots of bashing and chatting, or planning to hold a party or throw one - consider the newly opened Bioessence Serenity Spa as the place to celebrate, minus the hassles the usual parties bring. Launched Sept. 20, the Bioessense Serenity Spa, which can accommodate up to 30 people, fits the venue for close-knit birthdays, bridal showers, bonding activities of offices, and corporate and product launches. Bioessence, which turns 13 this October, is a chain that started in Davao City with a 3-bed clinic (two for facials and one for massage). Now with 20 outlets nationwide and another one opening in Zamboanga very soon, the pioneer in the beauty clinic business hosted a by-invitation, spa-themed party to TV and film star Jean Garcia, who celebrated her birthday Sept. 8. Jean and her guests, who were treated to the beauty chain's signature face, skin, and body treatments, and dined to sumptuous dishes, sampled the spa party Bioessence Serenity Spa is now offering. Musical numbers and comedy stand-ups also provided entertainment that evening. And to have a taste of Jean's spa-themed celebration at Bioessence Serenity Spa, contact 722-0658. Parties may also be held in other Bioessence branches. Visit www.bioessencephil.com for more details.

Philtoa: Tourism on the upswing

THE 18TH PHILIPPINE TRAVEL Mart held recently at the SM Megatrade Hall lived up to its billing as the biggest gathering of tour operators and travel enthusiasts as the event drew in over 50,000 visitors and generated substantial sales for airlines, shipping, hotels and resort operators.

"We are very pleased by the success of the event and turn-out of visitors," said Jo Pestano, president of Philippine Tour Operators Association, the event organizer." The business of travel and tour is on the upswing and our country will surely benefit from it," Pestano added.

The event which carried the theme "Everything Is Here For You" gathered the country's top tour operators, hotels, airlines, shipping lines, resort owners in promoting the tourism industry to local and foreign tourists. Local government unit executives were also present to feature tourism destinations in their respective areas.

One of the event highlights was the "Business Prospect Day" where foreign buyers were allowed to tour the exhibit area for possible business opportunities with exhibitors. Tourism Secretary Ace Durano who earlier threw his full support to the event was present along with Rep. Edgardo Chato, chair, Committee on Tourism, House of Representatives and Senator Richard Gordon who delivered a message.

The three-day which was marked by a fiesta-like celebration was capped with the awarding for the Best Booth, Best Cultural Presentation and the Bituin ng Kasuotang Filipino.

The Best Booth competition City Category was won by Laoag City followed by Baguio City winning 2nd place and Iloilo City and Iloilo City Convention & Visitors in 3rd place. For the Province Category, the winners are Camarines Norte, 1st place; Provincial Government of Guimaras, 2nd place and provincial Government of Bulacan, 3rd place.

The winners for the Corporate Category are: 1st place - Eastwood City; 2nd place - Boracay Tropics and 3rd place - Tambuli Resort. The Region Category was won by Region XI, 1st place; Region 10, 2nd place and Regions 1, IX and XII shared for the 3rd place. The entries were judged based on physical attraction and presentation, marketing and promotions value and level of service.

Meanwhile, the Best Cultural Presentation award went to St. Dominic Savio College. Second placer was Kaliw at Dabaweno and Kasiwat Dance Troupe from Pangasinan bringing home the 3rd place. The contest was open to all regional participants, Philippine college or university or independent cultural dance troupes and composed of 10 to 25 participants. All contestants wore authentic costumes and each presentation was limited to 10 minutes.

One of the most awaited events was the awarding of Bituin ng Kasuotang Filipino to Ms Nancy Blanco who represented Zamboanga. First runner-up was Ms Sarah Mae Lim of Cotabato and second runner-up was Ms Katrina Manansala of Cagayan de Oro. The contest was divided into two categories: Indigenous Costume and Indigenous Bridal Costume. Model contestants were Filipino citizens between 18 to 25 years old. The criteria for judging were: costume which was assigned 50 percent of the total score; personality and poise, 30 percent and intelligence, 20 percent.

The 18th PTM is co-presented by the Department of Tourism, the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corporation and Philippine Tourism Authority. Event sponsors are Philippine Airlines, Pagcor, Air Philippines, Negros Navigation, Chase Technologies, Next Mobile, Microdata, Amazing Phils, Manila Ocean Park and AIM Conference Center Manila. Media partners are Business Mirror, Travel Update, Foreign Post, NBN 4, DWRock 96.3, Wave 89.9, Jam 88.3 and Max 103.5.

'Weddings... Get set... Go!!!' The Coziest Bridal Fair

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER WALLY GONZALES IS AMONG TODAY'S IN-demand wedding photographers who counts as his clients some of Manila's elite and the country's top celebrities. This year, incidentally, is his silver anniversary as a professional photographer. He leads the pack of the country's top photographers in a showcase of current works via "Weddings... Get set... Go!!! The Coziest Bridal Fair Year 5 on Oct. 13 and 14 at Rockwell Tent, Rockwell Center, Makati City. Presented by Angel's Wink Events & Planners, Auffrance Catering, Wedding Essentials Magazine and Scents and Blends Fragrances, the event will feature top wedding suppliers and will be hosted by former Tux man Paulo Clemente. Soon-to-weds are encouraged to preregister online at www.angelswink.biz. For inquiries call Angel's Wink at 546-9477.

Medical oncologists in annual meet this October

WITH THE PERSISTENT PREVALENCE OF CANCER AS ONE OF THE leading causes of death worldwide and in the Philippines, continuous advancements and breakthroughs in technology, treatment, and patient care is continuously needed. This year, the Philippine Society of Medical Oncology (PSMO) tackles the potential of molecularly targeted therapies combined with conventional chemotherapy treatment in its 21st annual convention, with the theme: "The Power of 2: Integrating Biologics with Cytotoxics." The forum will be held on Oct. 10 to 12, at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City. The PSMO is a scientific and professional organization of leading oncologists committed to the advancement of medical oncology, and its ethical and holistic practice. PSMO also aims to actively participate in national, regional, and worldwide cancer programs. For further information and to register for the event, contact Erlyn Javier-Banal or Eddielyn Igloso of the PSMO Secretariat at 721-9326 or 723-0101 local 5318, or e-mail psmo-sec@pacific.net.ph or visit www.psmo.org.

Philippine Auto Club launches ICE PAC

YOU CAN NEVER TELL WHEN MECHANICAL BREAKDOWNS OR ACCIdents will strike you on the road. Good thing there's ICE PAC (In Case of Emergency, call Philippine Auto Club). ICE PAC is a 24 hour roadside emergency service program developed by the Philippine Auto Club to provide the motoring public a safe, worry and hassle free driving experience. ICE PAC has attendants professionally trained to handle any types of motoring predicaments from towing services, accident assistance, on-site minor repairs such as changing flat tires, boosting dead batteries, fuel delivery and spare key fetching. Travel assistance is also available should you require ICE PAC services out of town. ICE PAC is available nationwide with over 200 tow trucks on standby 24/7. As ICE PAC member, you can also benefit from other PAC services such as Auto Concierge where insured, professional drivers could take your car to the service center, smoke emissions test center, or the LTO when needed and assistance in license retrieval should yours be confiscated). Enroll now and enjoy worry-free driving with ICE PAC for only P950. Call 497-9989 or log on to www.philippineautoclub.com for more details.

Luneta Park prayer gathering

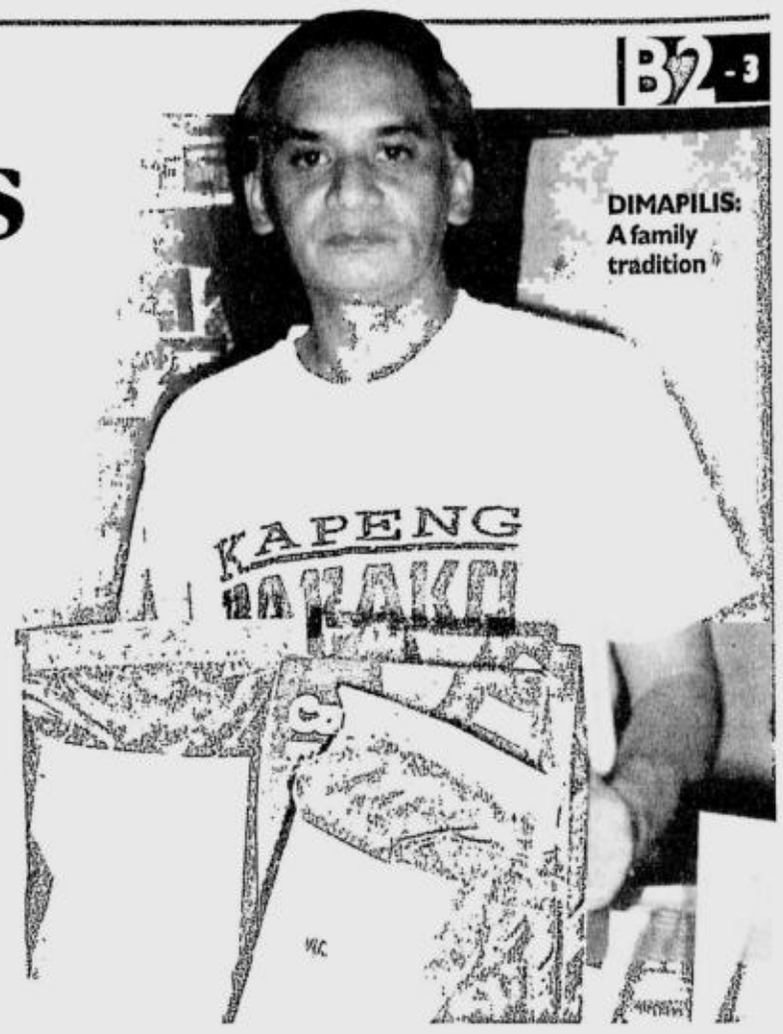
FOR THE FIRST TIME, CATHOLIC AND EVANGELICAL BISHOPS WILL JOIN hands this Sunday to lead over a million believers expected to gather at Luneta Park to pray for the country amidst another brewing political crisis. The prayer gathering marks the 29th anniversary celebration of Jesus Is Lord Worldwide Ministry founded by evangelist Bro. Eddie Villanueva. Novaliches Bishop Antonio Tobias is expected to read the messages of Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, the Catholic Church's highest ranking prelate, and that of Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines who couldn't attend the prayer gathering because of previous commitments. Chief Justice Reynato Puno will lead a special prayer for the judiciary. He will be joined by justices from the Sandiganbayan and members of the Judicial and Bar Council. Several legislators from the Senate and the House of Representatives are also expected to join in the special prayer for unity, peace, prosperity, justice and righteousness. Citizens Battle Against Corruption (Cibac) Rep. Joel Villanueva will deliver a "Real State of the Nation Address," which will serve as guide on the specific prayer offerings for the nation. Bro. Eddie Villanueva will speak on the theme "Your Kingdom Come," accentuating submission to God's rule as the key to peaceful and progressive lives as individuals and as a nation. After the prayer for the nation, there will be a healing crusade to be led by international evangelists Dr. Gary Greenwald of the US-based Eagle's Nest Ministries and Dr. Dexter Low of the Latter Rain Malaysian Church.

BTS Clips

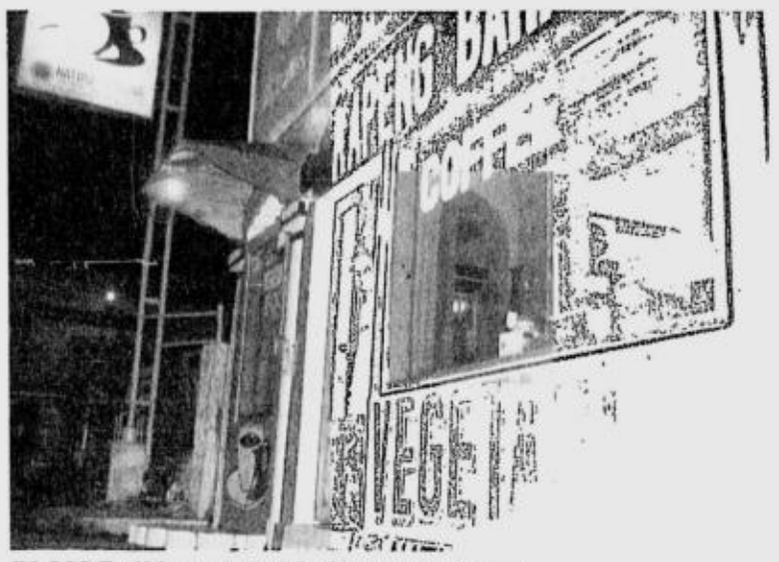
Filipinos can earn a global MBA at NUS

AT THE CONFLUENCE OF A FAST-INTEGRATING REGION COMPRISING dynamic China, booming India and rapidly developing Southeast Asia, Singapore is the single best location to develop business leadership skills. The National University of Singapore MBA Programme empowers students to become global business leaders by offering the best of the East and West in management principles and business concepts right in the heart of Asia, where the business landscape is flourishing. It's an opportunity to engage with motivated, articulate, and high achieving leaders in the making from all over the world, in a vibrant, diverse, intellectually stimulating environment, and be taught by a first-rate faculty with a unique ability to apply cutting edge ideas from the West to the heterogeneous contexts of Asia. It's no wonder why students from over 50 countries come to NUS to take up their MBA. Learn more about the NUS MBA by joining the NUS MBA Fair on Oct. 20, at the Makati Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Register today at mba.nus.edu or e-mail mba@nus.edu.sg.

'Kapeng Barako' store offers vegetarian products, too



DIMAPILIS: A family tradition


FACADE of Nature's Original in Silang, Cavite

SILANG, CAVITE—COMPARED to classy coffee shops that dominate the metropolis, that of Jun Dimapilis, 48, brews *kapeng barako* in this small town while adding healthy fare in the establishment's counter.

Nature's Original is one of the known coffee shops that sell packs of roasted coffee along with vegetarian products.

Tourists dropping by the store can also enjoy the cozy spot with the Hindi-inspired paintings of the owner, who is incidentally a Fine Arts major.

According to Jun, coffee was his family's business that started way back in 1960s and which he has carried on until today.

The family had a hectare of coffee plantation, from which its members had handpicked, sun dried and stored the coffee berries in their warehouse.

He added that the upland towns of Cavite (Gen. Aguinaldo, Alfonso, Indang, Amadeo and Tagaytay), which produce 80-90 percent of coffee in the country, had supplied coffee to the Philippine Veterans' Corps before, and even exported their products to Colombia between 1973 to early 1980s.

By 1983 to 1986, the Dimapilis family also became one of the coffee suppliers for Rustan's.

It was in 1986 when Jun decided to be self-employed and so he volunteered to handle the family's coffee business.

In 1992, however, he needed to stop the production due to lack of funds for the growing demand of the market.

Clients were asking for an upgrade in the packaging of the coffee, for which he did not have the capital.

When he was able to revive the business, Jun remained to be just a retailer of coffee, which he has been sourcing from other coffee farmers in the province up to now.

Vegetarian

What is more to the variety of roasted coffee sold at Nature's Original is the organic or vegetarian food it offers.

And this side of the business is not just for the profit but mainly a practice of the owner's lifestyle.

Jun included vegetarian products to his store since he is a vegetarian himself.

He said "no eating of animal meat" is a strict rule in the house.

Even their cats and dogs are vegetarian, he said.

But Jun gives free will to all of his three children to eat whatever they want outside their house.

Since 1992, Nature's Original offers organic products such as *salabat* (ginger tea), raw sugar, *tablea* (native chocolate from cocoa), herbal and medicinal teas, and vegetarian food like veggie-*tapa*, veggie-*tocino* and other veggie meat products.

The products come from the Adventist University of the Philippines, which is also located in Silang.

Aside from these, there are also mugs, figurines and scented candles displayed in the store for sale.

Jun recalled meeting a vegetarian back in high school, who first introduced him to the diet and to the thoughts of Ahimsa (a religious tenet of Hinduism, Buddhism or Jainism that promotes nonviolence toward animals) and the laws of Karma.

He adopted the lifestyle, however, without an in-depth understanding of its religious concerns yet.

When his long-time asthma worsened in 1986, Jun said he needed to take in all sorts of medicines, including steroids.

It was only his strict compliance to the vegetarian diet that helped him recover immediately.

Just then, he fully realized the benefits of the healthy diet.

Jun practices vegetarianism up to now, avoiding animal meat and even its byproducts such as milk or eggs.

Honest advertising

Earning a monthly gross of not less than P15,000, Jun is thankful to the loyal customers patronizing the store since the '80s.

He said he owed the success of the business to an honest advertising of their products.

"We are surrounded by popular coffee shops but our market is different. We notice some of our customers going back," he said.

Nature's Original has remained to be their family's source of living up to the present.

Jun said all three of his children were able to attend school through their business.

Even though his business is not really giving him big cash, he said, "Selling health products rewards him and his family." ***Maricar Cinco and Niña Catherine Calleja, Inquirer Southern Luzon***

DESPITE the backbreaking job, the porters' services have become tough business.

Porters breathe life ...

From page B2-1

and biggest vegetable trading post in the Cordillera today.

And just like middlemen who bid for the lowest price of vegetables, these porters also compete with each other by offering their cargo services to truckers whose trust would ensure a yearlong source of income.

Indeed, the porters' services have become a business. Unfortunately, they just earn a little.

Of the various stakeholders that spin the trading of vegetables here, the porters earn the least at P250 to P300 a day.

"But we enjoy the competition. We banter while waiting for the next truck to be loaded with vegetables," said Reynaldo Paragas, president of the provincial cluster of the La Trinidad Vegetable Trading Post Porters Association.

Paragas, who was already a porter when the trading post was established in 1994, said the business had helped a lot of unemployed husbands and bachelors who learned to love their craft.

Hard life

"That's true. It's a hard life but it is better than earning nothing," Rolando Lim, auditor of the association's Divisoria cluster, said.

Winnie Estores, a 33-year-old porter from Maitum, Sarangani, echoed Lim, saying that each porter must remain healthy since his muscles are his only capital to stay long in the business.

The porters are paid in various forms.

Paragas, 39, said some porters are paid from 10 to 25 percent of the total weight of vegetables moved from the trading post to the trucks.

He said for every kilogram of vegetable hauled, a porter would get between 10 and 25 centavos.

Estores said others are paid by contract per truck. The porters would bring the vegetables a trader ordered to his truck for an agreed price of at least P600.

"But the key is for porters to have their own *suki* (pet customers or truckers) to be serviced to be assured of the day's income," he said.

A porter hauls an average of 300 plastic sacks of vegetables a day, Paragas said.

The weights are standard, he said. Carrots are packed at 10 kg per plastic sack, potatoes at 25 kg and cabbages at 20 kg.

An Isuzu Forward truck that can accommodate five tons of vegetables could carry 500 plastic sacks. The porters can complete the loading of such volume within two hours, Paragas said.

A porter can carry two to three sacks. But if the truck is parked far, the porters use carts, another source of business in the trading post.

Lim, 29, said the porters hire the carts (*kariton*) at P30 a day. Only two persons were reported to have controlled the business here.

Right now, there are 325 carts roaming daily around the trading post. Each can carry a heap of assorted vegetables.

The porters are forced to hire the carts since they cannot afford to buy their own.

Lim said each cart, made of wood or steel, commands a price of P3,000 to P5,000 because of the rubberized wheel and bearing needed to assemble it.

A spice to the porter business here is that they follow a color-coding scheme to determine where vegetables loaded come from.

Divisoria porters have red carts, the provincial porters (those who service trucks from Lucena City, Bulacan, Pampanga, Cavite and other provinces) have brown, while a third group, called the "transfer group," has green carts.

The "transfer group" appears to be the most unstable among the groups of porters. This group is called as such since their members converge at the entrance of the trading post and try to outrun each other in chasing farmers' trucks that deliver their harvests here.

Whoever climbs a truck first would mean he had locked the deal to become its porter.

They've become wiser

The porters have also become wiser to protect their lot. They have formed their own organizations and they can refuse a porter to operate if he is not accredited.

The trouble is that some of the porters made their accreditation as their "property."

Agusta Balanoy, Benguet Truckers and Traders Association liaison officer, said there were reports of porters who demanded P50,000 each when they waived their right as registered porters in favor of a new applicant.

GOINGS-ON

Sun Cell's latest offer

SUN CELLULAR IS GIVING ITS customers a chance to apply for a postpaid line without submitting the usual documentary requirements with its "0% Interest your way to a Sun postpaid line" promo. The promo will run from Oct. 2 to Dec. 31, 2007. Customers may avail of this service, as well as other postpaid offers such as the 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited service, by presenting their locally issued credit cards at any SUN-Shop. Aside from the credit card, they should show a valid ID and latest billing statement.

Through this latest promo, Sun Cellular customers may charge to their credit card their 24-month monthly service fee, which they may opt to pay in six or 12 months installment with no interest. For more information, you may contact the customer service hotline at (02) 385-8000 or 200 through your Sun Cellular phone, or log on to www.suncellular.com.ph.

Scholarship pact forged

SM Foundation Inc. will grant scholarships to Don Bosco Technical Institute (DBTI) trainees currently enrolled in DBTI's 15-month Industrial Skills Training Program for School Year 2007-2008. This was contained in a Scholarship Grant Agreement between SM Foundation and the Manpower Skills Training Center of DBTI signed by SM Foundation executive director Debbie Sy and Carmen Linda Atayde, executive director for education and DBTI technical director, Bro. Elmer Rodriguez, SDB.

While this is the first time SM Foundation Inc. is providing scholarship grants to Don Bosco trainees, it has been in the forefront of helping underprivileged youth obtain education through the Foundation's scholarship program. It has 500 scholars at any given time nationwide. So far, 872 scholars have finished baccalaureate degrees under the Foundation's program.

New corporate identity

DDB Worldwide Communications Group Inc., the fourth largest consolidated advertising and marketing services network in the world, has recently announced a new corporate identity and redesigned DDB.com (www.ddb.com) to celebrate the group's evolution from creator of traditional advertising to cocreative architect of engaging brand experiences. Chuck Brymer, DDB president/CEO and noted branding expert, said "it is time for our own brand identity to reflect DDB's brand image—that it is among the most creative and inspired in the world." As part of the new branding effort, DDB unveiled a refreshed logotype, a new icon and enhanced corporate colors.

Ecological Debt Day

Global Footprint Network based in Colorado, US, set Oct. 6 as Ecological Debt day—the day when humanity has consumed all the resources the planet will produce this year. Data from Global Footprint Network and UK-based partner NEF (the new economics foundation) shows that starting in the mid-1980s the planet's Ecological Footprint has been bigger than what the planet can supply, and has been adding more to the ecological debt each year.

Dr. Mathis Wackernagel, executive director of Global Footprint Network, said one of the most significant consequences of the global overshoot is climate change, but collapsing fisheries, deforestation and topsoil loss around the world are also indicative of the mounting ecological debt.

Sixto K. Roxas from the Maximo T. Kalaw Institute for Sustainable Development, one of Global Footprint Network's 78 partner organizations, explained that in the Philippines, forest land has been reduced in a span of 100 years to a bare 6 percent or a little over a million hectares.

"Prime rice lands have been converted to housing areas and commercial and industrial sites. Fish catch has dwindled to a meagre 40 kg/ ha/year. Our rich biodiversity, including our endemic species, is continually threatened due to loss of habitat.

"This greatly affects the Filipino people as we are all dependent on our natural resources for our source of food, fiber, construction materials and others. It also erodes the social and cultural fibre of our communities, whose heritage is closely knit with the environment."

Citizens can take action to get out of ecological debt in their own lives: Eating less meat, driving and flying less, and using less energy in the home are the most effective ways to reduce personal Footprint.

Magazine in Middle East ...

From page B2-4

events and advocacy.

"A huge portion of our magazine is devoted to uplifting the Pinoy's image and self-esteem," she said.

Along this line, Illustrado regularly features articles and stories about the Pinoy's achievements and does coverage on personalities around the world. At the same time, it highlights articles on Filipino heritage and traditions.

"I think Pinoys already get the hard news from current media. Our job is not to duplicate these but to complement or balance this with positive, even neutral news," Lalaine said referring to articles or developments in the economy, the growth of real estate and medical tourism.

She, however, said that this did not mean they are detached from realities. "We also talk about problems but our approach is different. We don't only talk about issues, we discuss solutions."

Illustrado has columns such as "Kabuhayan" (livelihood) wherein basic information on ensuring the OFWs' future like insurance, investment, entrepreneurship and specific issues like real estate are discussed.

Apart from that, it also gives space to a column "Kabayanihan" geared towards promoting community camaraderie. This is reflected in the title which is a combination of two words, "bayanihan" and "kababayan."

In its first year of publication, Illustrado was able to generate support and acceptance from the Filipino community.

A letter to the editor furnished by Lalaine to the INQUIRER expressed gratitude "for giving the community a reason to be proud." "*Matagal na nating kailangan ng ganitong klaseng supporta—pampalakas loob sa ating mga* Pilipino, *ang pagkakataon na ipakita natin sa lahat na tayo ay magaling at kagalang-galang*," it said. (We've been waiting a long time for this kind of support to boost our confidence and the opportunity to show everyone that we are competitive and respectable)

Another OFW reader found the feature on entrepreneurship and successful ventures of fellow Filipinos inspiring. "Sometimes, you get discouraged because there is so much competition but when you read success stories, it gets you back on you feet and gets your creative juices going—drawing up ideas."

Lalaine met initial skepticism from people, asking whether there was a market for this kind of publication, which does not peddle '*tsismis*' (gossip) and scandals as a main content. ***Niña Catherine Calleja, Inquirer Southern Luzon***

Sunday BIZ

Magazine in Middle East uplifts Pinoy spirit

AS MORE FILIPINOS MOVE TO THE MIDDLE East, Filipino communities have also started to show signs of being well-established in the continent. One of the clearest indications of this is the presence of "Illustrado," a year-old Filipino-run magazine with the overseas Filipino workers as its intended readers.

Owned and managed by couple Lalaine and Mon Benitez, the magazine is distributed monthly in the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain.

Before the end of the year, the couple hopes the magazine would be able to penetrate Saudi Arabia.

Tagged as a "magazine for the international Filipino," the couple said Illustrado is the "first and only premium quality lifestyle publication for the Filipinos in the Middle East."

Interviewed through e-mail, Lalaine said Illustrado is also the only Asian magazine displayed in over 60 coffee shops and 25 beauty outlets in the UAE's major malls, salons, clinics and spas.

She added it is also the only Filipino publication being distributed in the eight Filipino schools in the UAE, as well as among community groups.

Illustrado has been able to create opportunities for the local advertising and retail sectors in the Middle East to advertise and reach out to the sizeable Filipino population.

At present, 80 percent of Illustrado's advertising revenue comes from Gulf-based companies but Lalaine and Mon are also eyeing working with more Philippine-based companies in the future.

Lalaine said they connect directly with clients in Manila and oversee around 20 freelance contributors through the help of developments in information technology.

Its publishers noted that the magazine, which features Filipino lifestyle, communities, and advocacy help boost the confidence of Filipinos working abroad and "provide them a positive outlook."

"It is hard enough to be away from one's country, away from your family and friends—and to have to read about disasters, crime, corruption, sex and sleaze only does not really help," she said.

Lalaine and Mon were already successful in their own fields when they felt the itch to do something more for the Filipino cause.

Lalaine, now the publisher and editor of Illustrado, gave up her work as category marketing manager in the gulf region for Novartis Consumer Health so she could concentrate on managing the magazine.

Mon, several times a gold awardee for the International Advertising Awards (IAA) Middle East and a creative director for the Leo Burnett group in the UAE, serves as creative consultant for the magazine.

LALAINE and Mon Benitez: A timely publication

According to Lalaine, initially they were looking for a good project for a start-up, mainly for the Filipino community.

"We were looking for a business that will not only be a source of livelihood but will have a meaning and a positive influence in our lives," she shared.

She and her husband realized that having been in the marketing, public relations and advertising business for almost two decades in the UAE, they were after all surrounded by talented and creative Filipino friends—writers, photographers, artists, fashion professionals.

From a small group, Illustrado now has over 20 regular contributors "all over the globe."

Illustrado's team of writers and artists is concentrated in the UAE and the Philippines, but it also has contributors from Oman, Singapore, United Kingdom, United States, Canada, New Zealand and Egypt.

Lalaine said she is proud of the fact that most of the people they work with in the magazine have bigger reasons besides the money. "It's not just a job; it combines passion with advocacy."

With the slogan "Taas Noo, Filipino!" the magazine aims to ingrain national pride among Filipinos by combining fashion and lifestyle with community

MAGAZINE/ B2-3

Couple finds sweet life in muscuvado

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—WHEN A woman loses her job as a chemist in a sugar mill and her husband, a military officer, decides to retire early, is there a way for them to become successful business partners?

It's possible, according to Jaime and Natividad Yadao, who put up Sugarcane Gold, the first company to produce the so-called healthy sugar in Pangasinan.

After retiring from the military, Jaime planted sugar cane while his wife, a chemical engineer, turned the produce into muscovado sugar.

But before finding the sweet life from sugar cane and muscovado, Natividad, 52, says she and her husband went into "different ventures that unfortunately did not do well."

She was the chief chemist of Hind Sugar Co. in Manaoag town from 1980 until it closed in 1997. She did not seek reemployment.

Jaime availed himself of early retirement as a lieutenant colonel in 2000 as he wanted to work as a full-time farmer.

"We attempted several projects—piggery, *tilapia* raising and planting hybrid rice—but they were not successful," Natividad says.

Then an idea cropped up. The 40-hectare sugar plantation of the closed Hind Sugar Co. was idle so they thought of leasing it and planting sugar cane in some areas and rice in others.

Things started out well with the couple planning to bring their harvest to Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac for milling the cane into sugar. But a big problem emerged: Hacienda Luisita workers staged a strike that brought the rice milling operations to a halt.

Other problems cropped up, so the couple decided to mill their harvest into muscovado sugar and introduce it to the local market.

They bought a set of used milling machine (locally known as the *dadapilan*) in Laoac town where cane farmers produce *pulitipot* (also known as *pulot* or thick concentrated juice) which, when processed further, becomes muscovado sugar.

Another challenge that the couple has to overcome is the market.

Word of mouth

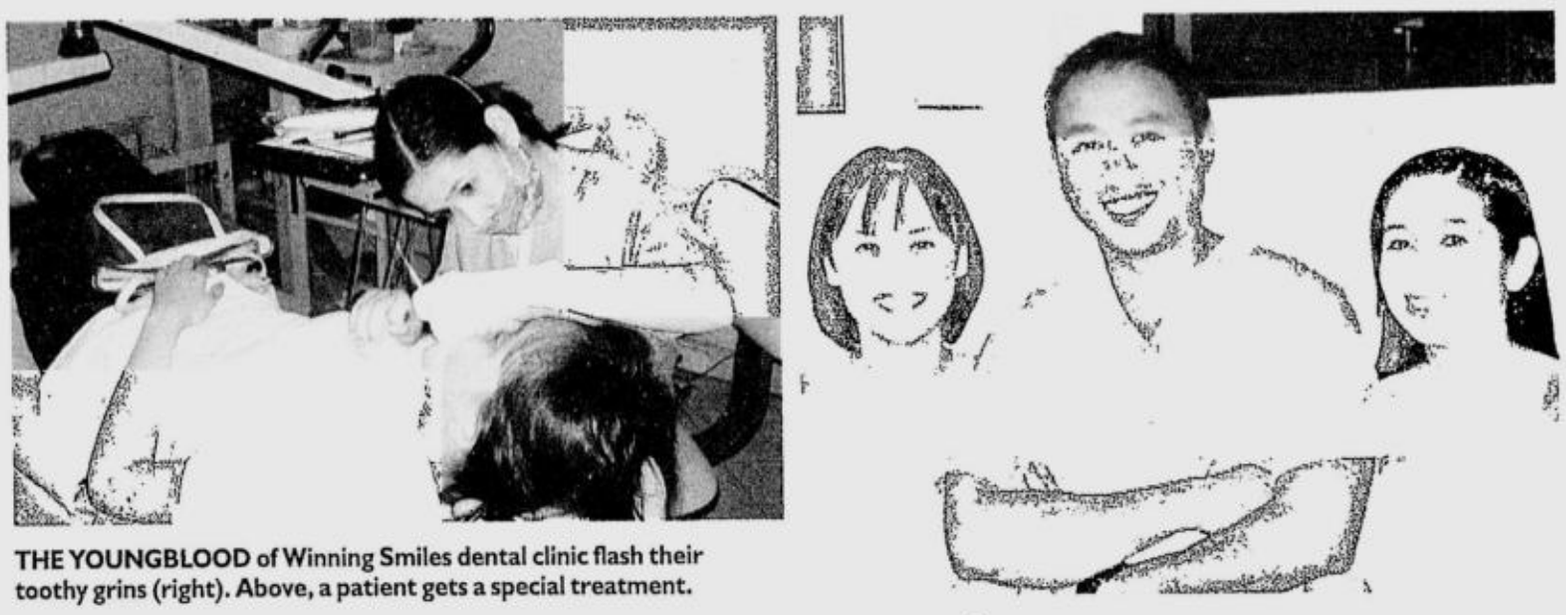
Muscovado from the Visayas is available in local supermarkets, but very few customers are buying it.

"But slowly, by word of mouth, our market is growing," Natividad says.

A trader also approached the couple for marketing the product in Northern Luzon.

The Yadaos joined the Sarisari Store and Livelihood Fair sponsored by City Supermarket Inc. in September, the first time they joined a trade fair to introduce the muscovado to customers.

Natividad says the Sugar Cane Gold factory uses an upgraded traditional technology where no chemical harmful to health and the environment is used.



THE YOUNGBLOOD of Winning Smiles dental clinic flash their toothy grins (right). Above, a patient gets a special treatment.

Branding their smiles away

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

FOR YEARS, A DENTAL CLINIC laid dormant and unnoticed by the locals and passers-by. It had no trade name, known only to its immediate neighbors and the loyal clients, friends of the resident dentist. The dentist eventually retired and a group of young dentists took over the clinic and its operations.

These young bloods knew how to play the game of branding, and they played it well. The result? A rejuvenated dental clinic with a new trade name—Winning Smiles.

It is a sleek clinic with a modern look and updated facilities and equipment and wider range of services. All these helped increased the clinic's visibility in the area, attracting a new breed of patients willing to pay good money to keep their winning smile.

Random moments

The three dentists and friends—Nancy Grey, Marion Enriquez and Greg Doronila—were responsible for giving the dental clinic a new lease on life.

The three were classmates in college at the University of the Philippines in Manila where they took up Dentistry. The friends always said they would put up their own business after they graduate.

"But that dream of ours did not happen immediately," Nancy, 36, said in an interview. "Right after our graduation, we all had our own separate jobs at different dental clinics."

They nevertheless kept in touch. Marion recalled it was Greg, during one of their many coffee dates, who reminded them of their idea of putting up a business together.

"It was one of those random moments where we were just relaxing at home and he suddenly burst out with the idea," she remembered. "Never did we imagine it really would come true."

One-stop umbrella clinic

What provided the push was the decision of Marion's aunt to retire and give up her dental clinic on V.A. Rufino St. in Makati in 2005.

The friends saw it as their singular chance to turn their dream into a reality, and so after separately working at dental clinics in different parts of the metro, the three decided to completely take over the dental clinic of Marion's aunt.

Marion said they came up with more than 10 options when they were thinking of a name for their clinic. Names like "Healthy Smiles" and "Smiles to go" were suggested before they finally settled with "Winning Smiles."

The dentists, who were personally involved in all aspects of building the business—from naming the clinic to refurbishing the look of the place—specialize in different teeth treatments.

Nancy is the orthodontist and deals primarily with children; Marion is the expert when it comes to teeth cosmetics, veneers, and crowns; and Greg is the authority on teeth implants and root canal-related treatments.

"From the start, we had wanted to pool our skills and resources to create an umbrella group, where our dental clinic would be a one-stop shop for our patients," Nancy said, adding that they refer their patients to who among the three of them can treat him or her best. "We wanted to have everything our patients need in one roof," Marion added.

Patients 'more vain'

It is a good time to put up a dental clinic because as Marion said, her patients are now becoming "more vain." She added: "My patients are now more concerned with their health and look. They are not just after a nice set of teeth for today. They want to preserve them until they get older."

"We also have many regular patients who come here as a family," said Nancy. "To them, having a nice set of teeth is of utmost importance."

In their new clinic, the three are proud to say that they treat their patients not just as clients but as friends and family.

Chinese resto Ilonggos love to dine in

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—ITS SHABBY, faded walls and large ceiling fans are a far cry from the bright, air-conditioned fast-food stores or first-class restaurants in hotels.

But, on most days, Dainty Restaurant on Iznart Street in the downtown area is filled with customers from all walks of life who regularly drop by for its famous *pancit guisado* and *bihon guisado*, coupled with *pan de leche* or *siopao*.

The restaurant has been serving Ilonggos for the past 78 years, and is reputed to be the oldest restaurant in Iloilo.

Chung "Ahong" Sai, together with four friends who migrated from Canton (now Guangzhou), founded the restaurant in 1929 when he was 17. They used to work as cooks for Wing Kee Restaurant, known for its Cantonese food since the early 1900s, at the historic Plaza Libertad.

When Chung Sai died, the second of his seven children, Ma. Esperanza Chan, took over the business.

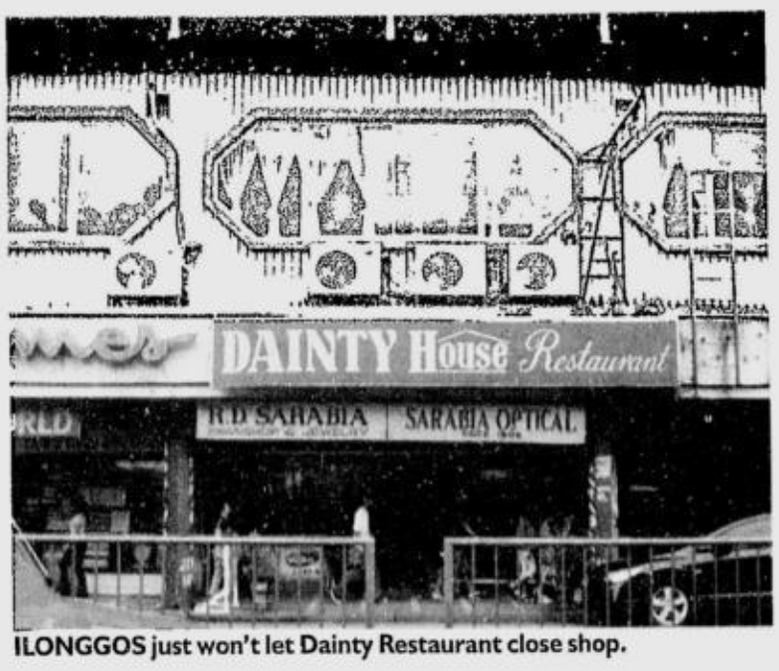
When Dainty started during the American colonial period, it served American dishes but it became famous for its Chinese cuisine.

Located at the two-story St. Joseph Building on J.M. Basa Street, the restaurant became an instant hit among the Ilonggos and a watering hole even of the Iloilo elite. Aside from the Chinese-Filipino community, customers even came from the rural areas.

"There was not much hotels and restaurants at that time so it was a place to be," said Chan, now 63. The guests included politicians from both Liberal and Nacionalista parties, and sugar planters who held board meetings there.

At its peak, Dainty had 50 employees, including cooks and waiters/waitresses. In the 1960s, Chung Sai's family bought out the shares of their partners and became sole owner of the restaurant.

Dainty had to close down in 1995 after parts of the building collapsed. That same year, Chan said the family decided to transfer to a smaller place at its present site at their own building. But loyal customers prodded the owners to open again.



ILONGGOS just won't let Dainty Restaurant close shop.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 7, 2007

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

...rer life ...message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

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AMBASSADOR José E. B. Antonio gets an impromptu thank-you from the young wards of RSCC.

Envoy of charity to the rescue

By Chelo Banal-Formoso
Photos by Rudy Esperas

JOSÉ E.B. ANTONIO WAKES up with so much to look forward to, although it is a Saturday. After biking around his neighborhood, just enough rounds to keep his exercise regimen going, he takes a shower and changes into a white polo tee and denim jeans. Not the usual attire for the CEO of one of the most successful property development companies in the country. Nor the proper attire for an ambassador. But this is exactly what is wonderful about Saturdays. He doesn't have to be a Suit. And he can chuck the ambassadorial primness.

ENVOY/ C2

Real-estate magnate and ambassador José E.B. Antonio is behind Sagip-Tahanan, which renovates collapsing charity homes

THIS GREEN House is not for plants but for 10 orphaned, abused or abandoned toddlers.

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"For stress relief, there's nothing like the ₱80,000 yearly savings we get from Sun."

Dr. Emma Guerrero, President, Bioessence

"Business is easy when you're not worried about cost."

Running a skincare, spa and slimming treatment center like Bioessence takes more than knowing the latest dermatological techniques—it takes a lot of business sense.

That's why Dr. Guerrero considers herself more a business woman than a dermatologist. What started out as a two-bed clinic in Davao City in 1994 is now a thriving enterprise with 32 branches spread out all over the country.

To keep on top of nationwide operations, Dr. Guerrero relies on Sun. "We switched to Sun because of the affordable rates," she explains, "you don't have to pay per call. It's because of unlimited call and text."

With Sun, daily operations run smoothly and at much lower cost. "We used to fax daily sales reports, but now, we just pay minimum regular rates and send it through text," she shares. Meetings are also set through text messages, making coordination a lot easier.

"Sun is very handy for our provincial business communications," Dr. Guerrero smiles, "it's made our business efficient and cost-effective. It's my ultimate stress reliever!"

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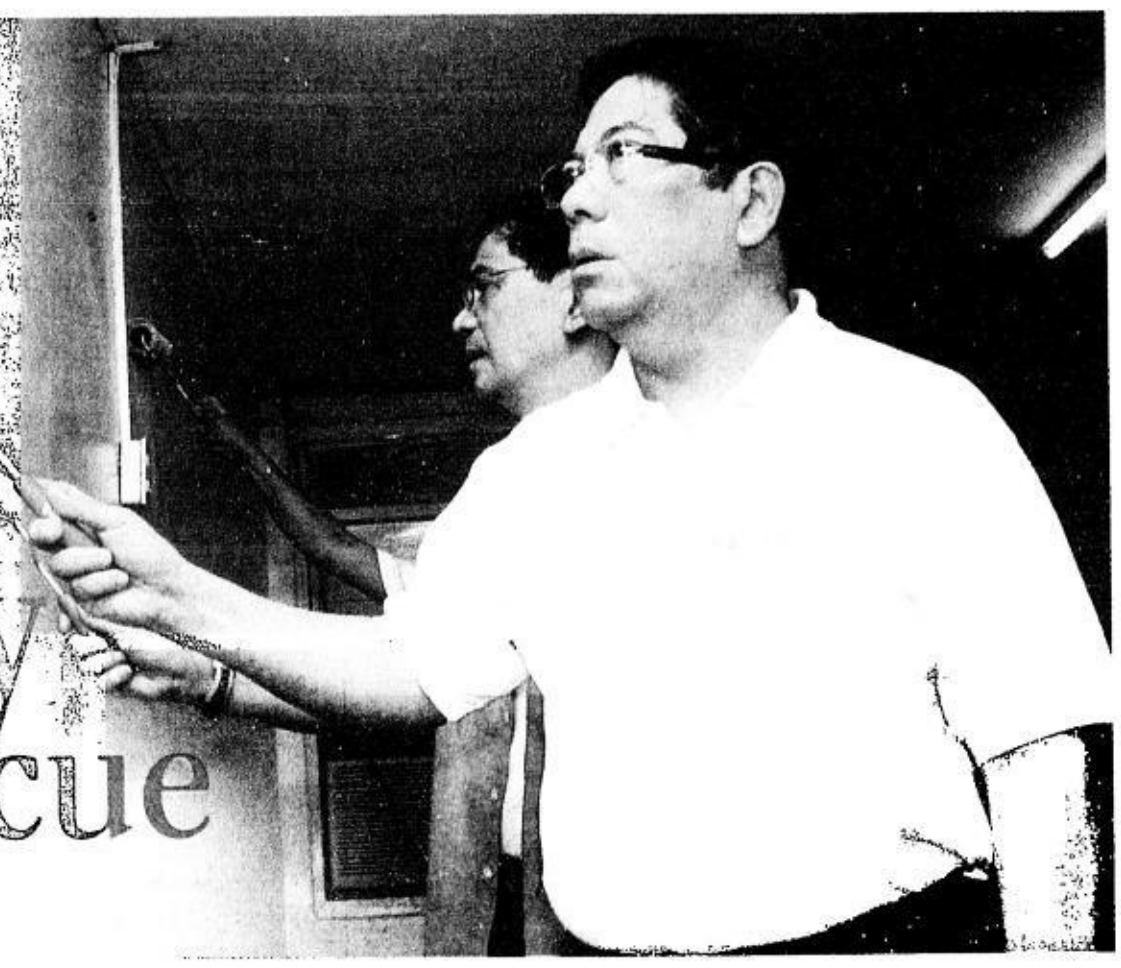
CENTURY Property's head engineer Sonny Navarro (right) removes the old and rusty GI sheets from the roof.

NEW roofing sheet means no more leaks when it rains in this home for toddlers.

THE CEILING has to be taken out, too, because of water rot.

Envoy of charity to the rescue



"OH NO, you're not going anywhere," says Fucanan to a fast crawler.

AMBASSADOR Joey Antonio, chair of J. Antonio Foundation, joins his staff in repainting the walls of the Green House. Up next is the nursery.

From page C1

Today he is headed for the Reception and Study Center for Children (RSCC) in Quezon City, a government-run orphanage and holding center for children (newborns to 6-year-olds) who are victims of sexual or physical abuse, child labor, neglect, abandonment or rejection by their own parents. To be in a place like this is often a depressing prospect. But not today.

It is a feel-good day because Antonio is paying it forward. So are his Century Properties Group employees, 20 of whom have been at the RSCC since 8 a.m. to help out with the Sagip-Tahanan project of the J. Antonio Foundation. The others who cannot be here have given cash for the purchase of books, bedsheets, disposable diapers, vitamins, milk, fruit juice, even fresh eggs.

'In aid of economy'

"There is only so much you can do in aid of legislation. There is so much more you can, in aid of the economy," says Antonio, the country's Special Envoy to the People's Republic of China, as he joins his volunteers.

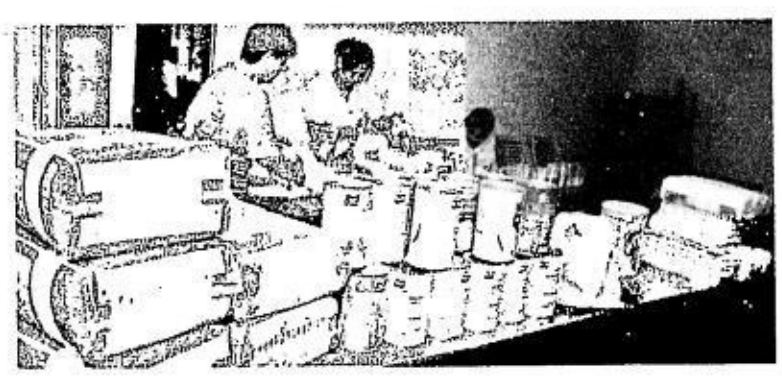
The center used to be part of the Welfareville compound in Mandaluyong but was moved to its present location in 1967. The color-coded buildings are thus 40 years old and have seen better times, if you can say that at all of government structures. There are 12 buildings, says Margarita Ortega, senior social welfare officer. Some serve as living quarters for groups of up to 10 kids, with living room, dining area, kitchen, bathroom and barracks-style bedroom. The others house the nursery, the infirmary, the central kitchen and the preschool.

Antonio and his staff are bringing wood, GI sheets, paint, brushes, doorknobs and other hardware products. They have agreed to repair one house at the RSCC every third Saturday of the month.

Today it is the Green House and head house parent Lorna Acosta has had to move the kids elsewhere. They are fixing the kitchen's leaking roof, changing not just the iron sheet outside but also the beams and plywood ceiling. The flooring will have to wait because the termite infestation is too serious to be managed in a day. Antonio vows to come back after he has found a termite-control service partner.

While the roof is being repaired, the other CPG volunteers are fixing cabinets, replacing doorknobs, etc. Still others are prepping the house for repainting—dusting, sweeping, pulling up beds, etc. Antonio checks every repair work in progress.

BONDING TIME: Employees of Century Property Group who gave up their Saturday to help renovate a children's home at the DSWD Reception and Study Center for Children; (below left) supplies donated by Century Property Group employees include diapers, wet wipes, milk, fruit juices, vitamins, etc.



No rookie

He is no rookie at this line of work. Not for nothing is he at the helm of companies that engage in a whole range of real-estate operations, from development and construction (Meridien Development Group Inc.) to sales and marketing (Century Communities) to taking care of the maintenance of commercial and residential properties (Century Properties Management Inc.).

"People think all they need to do is build a home and that's it. Be it ever so humble, it needs maintenance," says Antonio.

The homes for the wards of the budget-strapped Department of Social Welfare and Development are notoriously and perpetually in a state of disrepair.

Antonio witnessed this first-hand last summer. Invited to participate in an outreach at the DSWD-run Golden Acres by fellow Harvard special course graduate Pinky Tobiano, he found not only leaking roofs but homes with neither electricity nor water supply.

"*Kung baga, nasa* pre-departure area *na 'yung mga matatanda doon*," says Antonio. "We should make their remaining days less miserable." Determined to do just that, Antonio brought in his roofers, plumbers and electricians to make the necessary repairs.

As their good deed, some people build homes for free; others, like the J. Antonio Foundation volunteers, save them

Boss

That's easy to do if, like Antonio, you are boss to 6,000 people, among whom are the country's busiest engineers, architects and construction workers. For sure, it is something Antonio couldn't have done back in 1986 when he started his company with only six employees one week before the nation was gripped by People Power.

"Looking back, that year I started my own business was the best time to start one," he said in his speech at the Harvard Business School's Owners and Presidents Program commencement in 2003. Indeed, with the Philippine economy at the bottom, the only way it could go was up. When it eventually did, Century Properties was waiting with first-class condominiums and single-family homes to sell to Filipinos who were in the money.

"We have been blessed with education and opportunity so now we want to share," says Antonio. "People don't care how much you know; they will only know you when you care."

That stint at Golden Acres has opened his eyes to an unmet need in the marginalized communities. If there's a Gawad Kalinga, there should be a group to pick up where Meloto and company leave off. That's where the J. Antonio Foundation comes in. The first project was originally called "Sagip-Bubong" (Save a Roof) but, as it turns out, there is so much more that needs to be repaired besides the roof so the project name and purpose have been changed to "Sagip-Tahanan" (Save a Home).

"B-2-B. Back to basics," says Antonio, referring to the need to restore shelter, light and water to charity homes. "That's what we need to prioritize. There's a lot that can be done by private business."

In the spirit of the moment, he then picks up a roller brush and starts helping to repaint the walls.

"ISN'T THIS better than going to the mall?" Antonio asks the volunteers as they prep the Green House for repainting—sweeping floors, wiping walls and moving beds.

PEP TALK. The ambassador mobilizes his management team: CPMI executive vice president Paul Navarro, PR manager Terrie Fucanan, executive assistant Carol Canoy, Fernan Espineo, investment head Resty Inggal, Navarro, engineer Roger Vinluan and IT director Jay Estaris.

How to ace exams

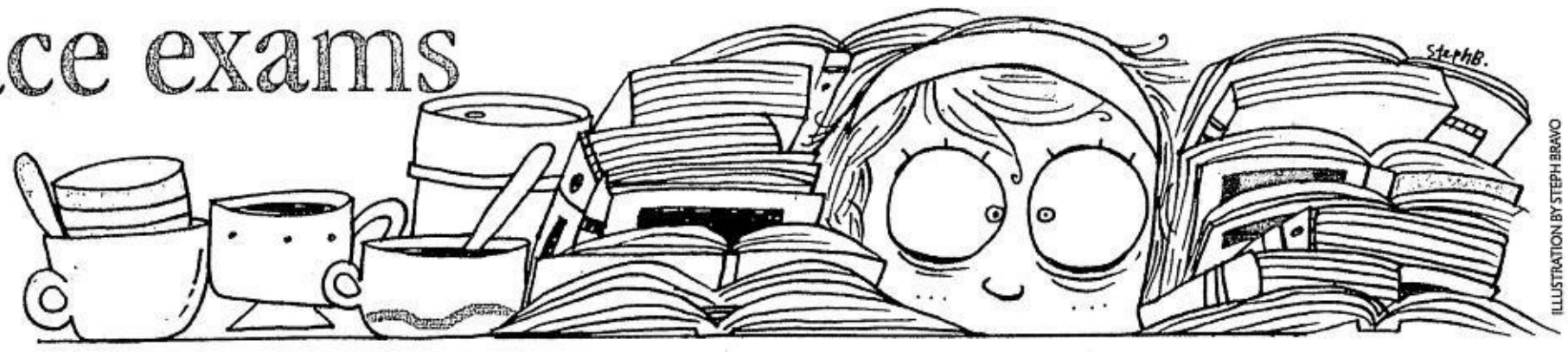


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

By Queena N. Lee-Chua

Avoid cramming, go beyond the textbook, motivate yourself to do better

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE year again when exams dominate the hearts and minds of students, parents and teachers. But tests are part of education, and unless we find other ways to measure learning, we need to not just endure exams, but to face them with confidence.

Fortified by countless cups of coffee, you spend the night before the test memorizing formulas, and manage to gain a high mark. You swear that you will cram from now on. But wait—you may have been lucky in that one instance, but cramming does not work in the long run.

Cramming forces material into short-term memory, and lessons studied in this way are almost always forgotten once the answer sheet is passed. For a subject like math, this contains an added danger, for topics build on basic skills, and you will not be able to understand a new chapter if previous material is not recalled.

The best way to prepare for any exam, of course, is to not let all the topics pile up. Start reviewing now, even if the test is still a week or two away. Study regularly.

According to psychology research, one way to ace a college course is to use the two-for-one rule. If you want to get an A, study two hours for every one hour spent in class. For instance, if history class meets for three hours a week, then you need to study six hours outside the classroom, reviewing and understanding the material discussed in the lecture. Two-for-one may not sound cool, but it is the secret of honor students.

Consult the teacher or a competent classmate immediately if something is not understood. I stress the word "competent," because though group studies have helped many students, if no one in the group understands the material, then this would be a case of the blind leading the blind. In the Ateneo de Manila University, the only tutors I endorse for struggling students are members of the math club, science or math majors who have already mastered the basics.

Also, group study only works if each member is serious about studying. Many sessions start out with lofty aims, but soon degenerate into excuses for partying or gossip.

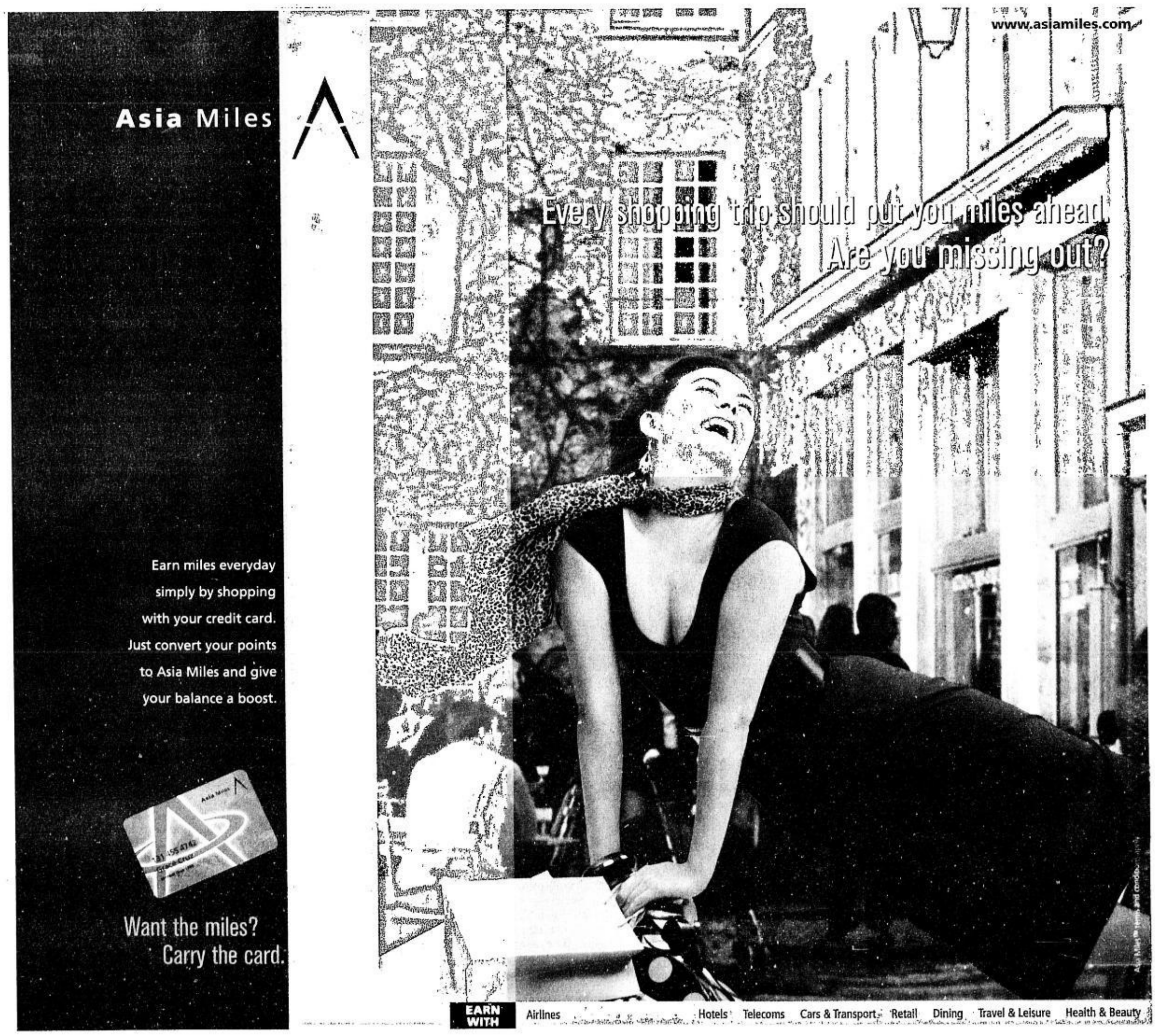
Borrow from library

Borrow additional references from the library, and spend time reflecting on the different approaches to a single topic. Mastery of lessons is enhanced by various ways of looking at the problem, which a sole textbook, however good it is, cannot provide.

When doing a term paper, the teacher usually requires several references to ensure students develop a comprehensive understanding. Similarly, you need to do various types of exercises (for math and science) and analyze different perspectives (for art, literature, social science).

After months of listening to teachers (I assume that you do not cut classes often, or at all), you will already have de-

HOW TO/ C4



SCHOOL'S FUN! (From left background) Timex marketing officer Kristine Santos, Newtrends-Timex general manager Murli Menon, Unicef deputy representative Colin Davis and Timex product manager Gemma Pagsibigan with the children of Sitio Catindoy

This island's time has come

FOR MANY CHILDREN OF SITIO CATINDOY on Iniwaran Island, Masbate, it is not easy to attend school. Eight-year-old Ana, for instance, either walks more than an hour or rides a banca across an often-choppy sea.

Many parents would have wanted to teach their children at home instead, but this is not possible because most of them are illiterate, having had no opportunity to attend school themselves when they were younger.

Fortunately for the children of Sitio Catindoy, things have changed. In 2005, thousands of Timex customers who patronized the Timex Christmas promo helped raise funds that eventually went to the construction of Catindoy Primary School.

With Unicef at the project's vanguard, Timex, along with the Department of Education and the municipal government of San Pascual, worked hand-in-hand to initiate construction efforts. The new school now stands on top of a hill, delivering a message of hope to the residents of Iniwaran.

DESPITE the less-than-satisfactory condition of their educational facilities, the children of Sitio Catindoy on Iniwaran Island make it a point to go to school, whenever they can.

Almost abandoned

The spectacular beauty of Iniwaran Island, located in Sibuyan Sea off the coast of Masbate, conceals the social and economic problems affecting its inhabitants. Masbate is among the county's poorest provinces, ranking third just after Sulu and Tawi-Tawi as the most vulnerable in terms of poverty, malnutrition and hunger.

Residents of Sitio Catindoy joke that their island's name might have been derived from *iniwanan*, the Tagalog word for abandoned. The remoteness of the island sees to that. To get a drink, residents have to choose between drinking from an unclean water source or to ride a boat across the sea to bring back drinking water from the municipal proper. The lack of any health facilities in the island means people get no professional assistance when they get ill or when the women give birth. Many children and pregnant women are thus malnourished and anemic.

This deplorable situation was what inspired Timex and Unicef to work with the Department of Education and the municipal government of San Pascual to step up to the challenge of creating a better future for the children of Iniwaran.

Three-classroom school

Through the Timex Christmas Promo held in Christmas of 2005, P1.5 million was raised. A third of this amount went to the building of a daycare center in Sorsogon, while the remaining P1 million was donated for the construction of Catindoy Primary School.

Together with Unicef's P500,000 donation, the three-classroom school with a toilet for boys and girls has been raised. And to address the residents' water problem, a ferrocement water tank, which will store potable water during the rainy seasons, was also built.

Under the technical auspices of Department of Education personnel, the residents themselves worked on building the school. Catindoy Primary School now serves 61 first graders, 48 second graders and, temporarily, the 64 daycare pupils who lost their day learning center when Typhoon Caloy devastated the island last year.

Hopefully, the project will be the start of other community programs in Sitio Catindoy, including a multigrade school system, child and maternal healthcare and nutrition, water sanitation, birth registration, child protection particularly from trafficking and child labor, local governance, and community empowerment.

Teary-eyed parents thanked Timex and its partners through a simple, heartwarming song accompanied by a worn-out guitar. At long last, Iniwaran's residents and children will no longer be *iniwanan*.

BUILDING HOPE. Through the efforts of Timex, Unicef, the Department of Education and the municipal government of San Pascual, Catindoy Primary School now stands as a symbol of hope to the children of Sitio Catindoy, Masbate.

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Guballa

Learning your family's love languages

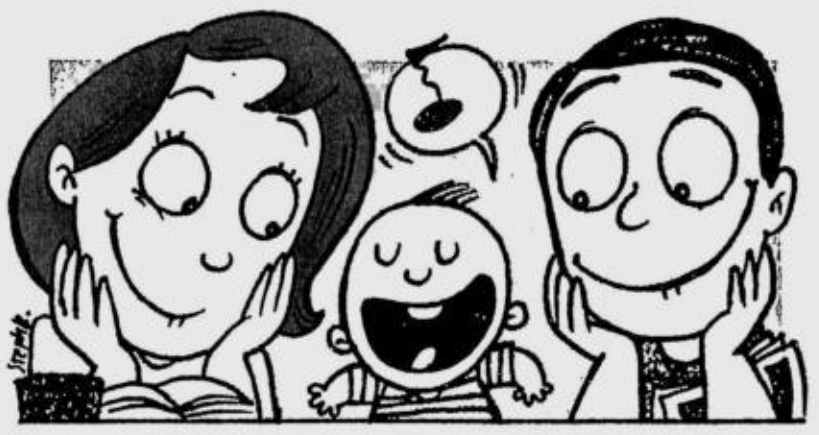
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, MEMBERS of one family can speak many languages. Emotional love languages, that is. For communication to run smoothly between husband and wife, or parent and child, one needs to understand each other's love language.

One of the most helpful books I've read as a parent and as a wife is Dr. Gary Chapman's best-selling book on families and marriage, "The Five Love Languages." I was reminded of this book again when a co-parent of ours discussed it at a recent parents' fellowship at my son's school. It's an old book, but the lessons are timeless and always worth revisiting.

According to Chapman, your emotional love language—the manner by which you feel that you are loved—and the love language of your spouse or child may be radically different. "No matter how hard you try to express love in "English," if your spouse understands only "Chinese," you will never understand how to love each other," he says.

He stresses that being sincere is not enough. In order for us to be effective communicators of love within our families, we need to be willing to learn our spouse and children's love languages.

After 30 years of being in the marriage-counseling profession, Chapman concludes that there are basically five emotional love languages—five ways by which people understand and communicate emotional love.



Dr. Gary Chapman's best-selling book on families and marriage says there are five ways by which people understand and communicate emotional love

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO

Encouragement, affirmation

First among these languages: Words of Affirmation.

"If a loved one listens for 'Words of Affirmation,' offering encouragement will help him or her overcome insecurities and develop greater confidence." Children bask under the affirmation they receive from their parents. This is even more important when the child's primary love language is such.

Next is Quality Time. By this I mean giving your spouse or child your full focus or undivided attention. A husband who speaks to his wife while watching television, reading the newspaper or in-between answering a crossword puzzle is not in the moment.

Neither does talking to a child while cooking dinner or balancing a checkbook. Chapman says quality conversation is very important in a healthy relationship. It involves sharing experiences, thoughts, feelings and desires in a friendly, uninterrupted context.

"A good mate or parent will not only listen, but offer advice and respond to assure their mate or child that they are truly listening. Often, many mates or children don't expect you to solve their problems. They need a sympathetic listener."

For some children or spouses, their love language may be Receiving Gifts. Spouses or children who speak this language feel that a lack of gifts translates into a lack of love from parent or mate.

It is one of the easiest love languages to learn. For someone who is naturally generous, this should not be a problem. However, for one who grew up being taught that money needs to be invested wisely, a paradigm shift is needed. Think of it this way—you are investing in your partner or child's emotional love bank, rather than in the gift itself.

You also need not do this every day. It is the consistency, the thought and the visible act of the gift that counts.

Acts of service

I can fully relate to the fourth love language, Acts of Service, because it is the one I appreciate the most. While the spouses can speak this language often in a marriage, Chapman says the important thing is to know which acts of service your mate appreciates the most.

In other words, you may be speaking the same language, but talking in different dialects! And these acts of service need to be done out of love and not obligation. "It is important to perform these acts out of the kindness of your hearts," says Chapman. Demonstrating these acts requires a humbling of the self and breaking out of stereotypes. It is one of the most difficult languages to speak because it requires humility on the part of the partner or parent.

The fifth love language is one that can sometimes cause a tremendous amount of strain in a marriage—the language of Physical Touch.

"Many mates feel the most loved when they receive physical contact from their partner. For a mate who speaks this love language loudly, physical touch can make or break the relationship," says Chapman.

This language is also spoken by many children, although not always communicated. In preparing for this column, I was discussing the subject with my 9-year-old son, a highly expressive and affectionate child. Without missing a beat, he told me, "I like to cuddle, mom, that's MY love language."

Deciphering the babble

However, not all children can express or blurt out what they need. Chapman offers suggestions on how a parent can decipher his or her child's primary love language.

1. Observe how your child expresses love to you. Your child may very well be speaking his or her own love language without you realizing it. Be particularly aware of those languages that aren't natural to you.

2. Observe how your child expresses love to others. Pay close attention to how your child interacts with the children and adults to whom your child most often shows affection.

3. Listen to what your child requests most often. Most kids aren't shy about voicing their requests, preferences and desires. If you learn to listen "between the lines" to the things your child is requesting, you may hear his or her primary love language.

4. Listen to your child's most frequent complaints. When you stop to consider their whining and grumbling, the results may surprise you. Their complaints may fall into a category corresponding with one of the love languages.

5. Give your child a choice between two options. Try introducing your child to situations where there are choices between two love languages. Pay close attention to the decisions made. The love language your child chooses most often may very well be his or her primary love language.

Finding out your children's love languages can be a fun adventure. Sometimes, in knowing and discovering your child's needs, you learn many things about yourself as well.

If you want to find out what your love language is, visit the love languages website at www.fivelovelanguages.com. The test can be a starting point to getting to know your spouse and children even better.

E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com

How to ace exams

From page C3

veloped insights about their personality, method and expectations. Sometimes, teachers will give students an idea of what to expect in the test. For instance, I announce to my math classes that every exam requires them not just to compute for certain values, but also to prove certain results. In psychology, which can be prone to subjectivity, I remind students to master the factual details of concepts, and rely on research rather than opinion.

Mari-Jo Ruiz, my mentor and a Metrobank Outstanding Teacher Awardee, says, "Put yourself in the teacher's place. If you were the teacher, what questions would you ask? On what concepts should your students' knowledge be tested? This exercise forces you to look back at the lessons to recall the central idea around which a chapter has been built."

Do not despair

One bad exam does not cause automatic failure. You can usually pull up a low average by doing better on other quizzes, projects, or class participation. However, you need to realize that after a failed exam, you should not just crumple up your paper in disgust and put the exam out of mind. Understand why you made those mistakes and, more importantly, how to avoid committing them again the next time around.

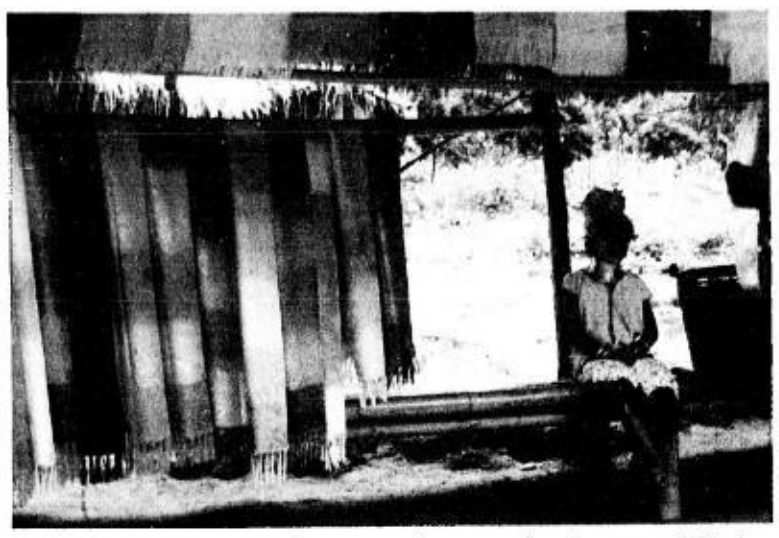
I detest checking exams, but I have made it a habit to return exams within the week, usually by the next meeting. I discuss common errors in class, and try to find ways to prevent them. I believe students need to correct mistaken ideas before we can safely proceed to the next topic.

I repeat—do not give up over one failed test, but at the same time, keep in mind that all the projects in the world cannot make up for constant failure.

Once I had a student who was absent every week, and who, unsurprisingly, did not answer correctly even half the questions in every exam. He never submitted assignments, never scheduled consultation, never raised a hand in class. On the day after the finals, he finally visited me and begged for projects to raise his grade. By the time he regained his senses, it was too late.

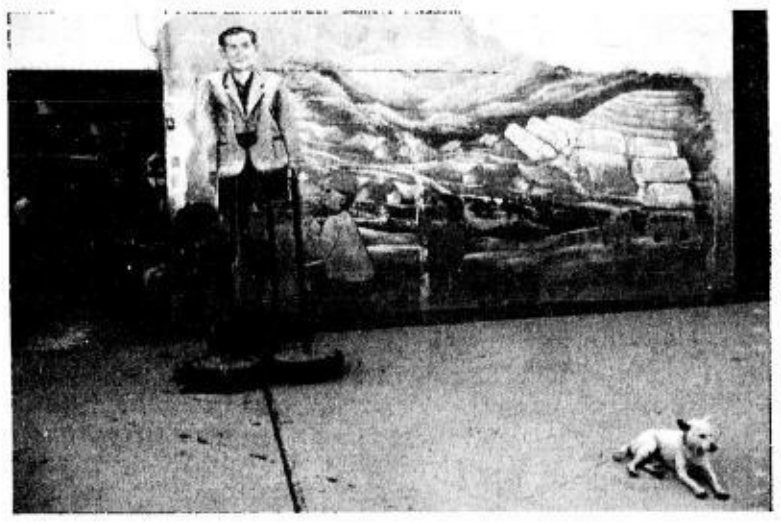
Get a good sleep and eat well before the test. Trust that God will guide you. Once you have done everything you can, that is the most you can demand from yourself.

Contact the author at blessbook@yahoo.com



LONGNECK girl tends to her ware of scarves of cashmere and Thai silk.

AERIAL plants in the greenhouse of the Royal Agricultural Station



MURAL of King Bhumibol Adulyadej in a hilltribe schoolyard

Projects fit for a king

From page C6

about going to that part of the country—along probably the steepest road inclines in the world—on the borders of the hills, tropical forests and the mighty Mekong River.

For four days we traveled from Chiang Mai, known as the Rose of the North, through Chiang Rai, the first capital of the ancient kingdom of Lanna. Nestled in the bosom of these godforsaken hills, valleys, basins and deltas are among the most beautiful sights in the land and the more interesting features of the country.

In Doi Angkhang, three hours' drive from Chiang Mai and a stone's throw away from Burma, can be found hilltribe villages each with its own history and culture. These are ethnic peoples who have been crossing the borders for generations that the king finally integrated into the Thai nation.

Khob Dong is inhabited by the Red and Black Musers, believed to have originated in Tibet. These easygoing villagers receive support from the Royal Project for their agricultural and craft work.

Nor Lae, on the Thai-Burmese border, is inhabited by the Palong tribe, who had migrated from Burma at the height of that country's intermittent civil strife in the 1980s. Among the tribes, they wear the most elaborate clothes, something one would properly call a costume.

Ban Luang has villagers descended from Chinese migrants from Hunan province. Leading an agricultural life, they grow mainly plums, peaches and pears.

Baan Khum is a small community of people of various descents—Thai, Burmese and Chinese. The visitor instantly recognizes the differences in physiognomies and attires. This is a showcase of peaceful coexistence, as they run their small businesses and shops.

Crafts and agriculture

The mountain climate here is about as cool as Baguio's, a huge relief from the hellish temperature of Bangkok. It is ideal for temperate-climate crops, from fruits and vegetables to flowers.

It was here that the king opened the Royal Agricultural Station in the '60s to develop marketable produce and thus provide the hilltribes with a wider range of cash crops. He intended to supplant their growing of opium, the illegal crop on which they had depended for generations.

Today they grow Japanese apricot, Chinese pear, strawberry, plum, raspberry, persimmon, kiwi, peach, fig, lychee, loquat, vegetables, macadamia, coffee, tea, rhododendron, azalea, English rose. No poppy is in sight.

In Chiang Rai are more settlements of numerous hilltribes from the Akha to the Karen to the Hmong, the Lisu, the Padong, to descendants of Chinese Nationalist soldiers who settled in the area in the '40s. It was here where we encountered those longneck beauties that we previously saw only in National Geographic.

Most of these villages have bazaars for tourists, where colorfully costumed females from children to old women tend to their wares of exotics: silvercraft, woodcraft, ethnic weaves, native ceramics, beadwork, basketry, puppets, accessories, even a pair of elephant tusks (which we haggled down to the equivalent of P300, but promptly returned on second thought about the repercussions to the environment and the Bureau of Custom).

Hall of Opium

Certainly the jewel in the crown of royal projects is the Hall of Opium in the 40-hectare Golden Triangle Park at the northernmost point of Thailand, a spitting distance from Laos across the Mekong.

This is part of the Doi Tung Development Project started by the king's late mother "to regenerate the forests and improve the lives of people living in the heart of the Golden Triangle, ending their dependence on opium-growing and use, prostitution and child labor."

The Golden Triangle is those vast porous borders in the Mekong Delta occupied by Laos, Burma and Thailand—the source of over half the world's heroin. It is here where hilltribe farmers grow a beautiful poisonous plant, the poppy—and process it into heroin and opium.

Since the late '80s, through the initiative of the king's mother Princess Srinagarindra, the denuded hills have been reforested. Today most of the hilltribes are practicing sustainable agriculture.

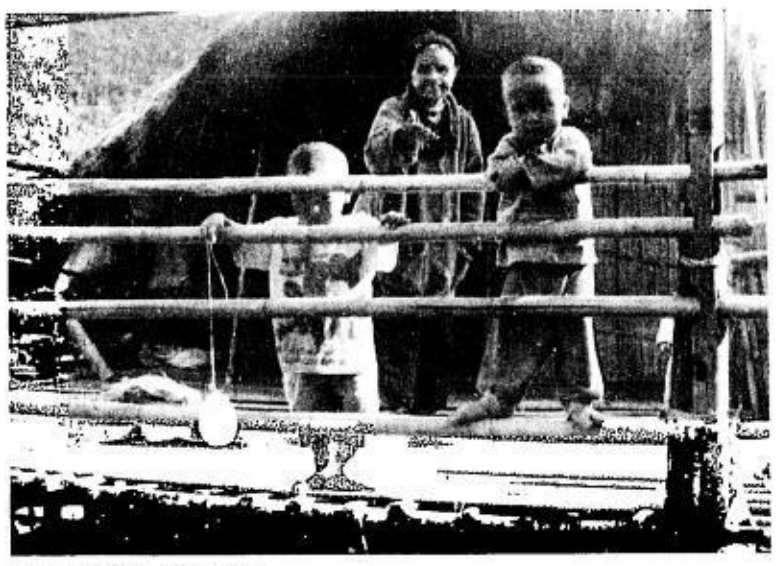
As both memorial and warning, the Hall of Opium was built. It is a 5,600-sq m exhibition area and information center tracing the history of opium use and abuse from prehistoric times to the present.

It is an awesome experience as one drifts through its nearly 20 sections. One enters a 137-m tunnel, wends from gallery to gallery through what seems like a winding torture chamber, and ends in the Hall of Reflection.

The late princess had several more projects, from education to charity to rural medical treatment, from handicraft to the conservation of wild flowers. For her contribution to Thai society in the fields of education, religion, public health and public welfare, she was recognized by Unesco as an Outstanding Personality of the 20th Century.

Truly, Thailand is living up to its tourism slogan. Yes, we were amazed.

GLISTERING memorial built on the 60th birthday of Queen Sirikit



CHILDREN of the hills

MOTHER and child of the Palong tribe from Burma

TRAVEL BRIEFS

European tour

Adam's Express Travel is organizing an 18-day eight-country tour of Europe starting Nov. 5. The tour will cover Lourdes, Fatima, Loyola of St. Ignatius, Zaragoza of Our Lady of the Pilar, Assisi of St. Francis and Rome with its St. Peter's Basilica. It will start in Amsterdam, the Netherlands; then proceed to Brussels, Belgium; Paris, France; Burgos for the United Nations Heritage Site Salamanca and Barcelona, both in Spain; Nice, France; and Italy. Call 5223876 or 5211638/98/51.

Batangas, Davao tours

Inscribe Tours is organizing a trip on Oct. 20 to Batangas where participants can sample the local cuisine at Sister Emma Alday's Casa Rap in San José and European-trained chef Popit de Leon's cooking in a Lipa rambutan orchard. They can take pottery lessons from 32-year-old Pablo Capati III, who trained in Japan. There will also be side trips to the Segunda Katigbak Museum and Mt. Carmel Monastery in Lipa City. Inscribe Tours is also organizing a tour of Davao, Oct. 25-28. Call 8405912 and 5758370.

Season's best deals

Treat yourself to something special this coming holiday season. Avail of the Season's Best Deals Package at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila. If you book a room now for stays between Dec. 15-Jan. 31, you pay a special rate starting from P2,700++ per night. Booking can made until Oct. 31. The package includes buffet breakfasts and discount voucher at Fab. Kids 7 years old and below eat for free when they dine with their parents. The room package does not apply on the evening of Dec. 31. Other hotel terms and conditions apply. Call 6337111.

Premium escapades

The Suites at Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club offers "Suite Escapades," a golf vacation package especially designed for a visiting foreigner or expatriate. The premium package offers de luxe accommodations and service amenities in two options. The Presidential Suite Escapades Package is good for a party of four. Inclusive of a two-bedroom Presidential Suite, it is available for US$600 net/day. The Executive Suite Escapades Package includes a one-bedroom Executive Suite for a party of two for US$295 net per day. The Suites at Mount Malarayat is owned and developed by The Active Group. E-mail teeds.devera@gmail.com or visit www.malarayat.com.

Three new packages

The Manor at Camp John Hay has three new packages designed to make the resort the "all-season, all-reason" destination. The Barkada Bonding Package includes two-night accommodation in a Superior Room or One-Bedroom Suite for three to four persons. The Satin Nights Package features two-night accommodation in a Superior room or One-Bedroom Suite for two. The Manor Reunions Package gives family members the chance to bond with its two-night accommodation in a Superior Room for two to three persons. Call 074-4240931/47/50-53; 074-8450892, 8450911; e-mail cjh-manor@skylnet.net; or visit www.campjohnhayhotels.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL
The Philippines recently hosted the 6th Celebrate the Sea Marine Imagery Festival at the Coconut Palace in Manila. The annual gathering is considered the biggest underwater imaging event in the Asia-Pacific region. Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano (right) and Assistant Secretary and Philippine Commission on Sports and Scuba Diving executive director Cynthia Carrion (center) receive a special citation from Michael Aw, event organizer.

Chain opens flagship store

THE TRAVEL CLUB, THE Philippines' leading travel and lifestyle boutique, has opened its flagship store at the second level of TriNoma.

The 15-year-old store has a wide assortment of luggage and travel accessories.

Its 600-sqm shopping space has the most comprehensive collections from world-renowned travel brands like Samsonite, Victorinox, Jansport, The North Face, American Tourister, Columbia, Hegren, Eagle Creek.

The one-stop-shop is sure to provide almost everyone's requirements for business, leisure or adventure travel.

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

Projects fit for a king

Royal initiatives in Thailand are a tourism showcase

Text and photos by Constantino C. Tejero

WHILE IN SOME PARTS OF THE world monarchs are barely tolerated, totally derided or simply ignored, in Thailand, King Bhumibol Adulyadej and his family remain respected and revered.

The family members lead relatively respectable lives and make themselves useful to society. In 1991, Princess Sirindhorn received the Ramon Magsaysay Award (Asia's Nobel Prize) for Public Service. Earlier, in 1988, the Royal Project was given the Magsaysay Award for Peace and International Understanding.

In mid-September, representatives of print and broadcast media from the Philippines and Guam were invited by the Tourism Authority of Thailand and Thai Airways International to see some of these royal initiative projects, particularly in northern Thailand.

Intended to promote the airline's Royal Orchid Holidays discovery packages, the familiarization tour was also part of the yearlong celebration of the king's 80th birthday in December.

Among the numerous events lined up is the showcasing of the various projects the king and his family have been "tirelessly working on to improve the quality of life of the Thai people," says Nivat Chantarachoti, Thai Airways general manager for the Philippines and Guam.

Hilltribe villages

Despite the roads' excellent condition, however, any newcomer would feel a bit apprehensive

PROJECTS/ C5

THE BUDDHA presides over the Golden Triangle, borderland of Laos, Burma and Thailand in the Mekong Delta where poppies blow.

Red Ribbon

Must-Have Cake *for* October

A majestic 3-layer cake
with cashew brittle and butter cream.
Garnished with chocolate sprinkles and
crowned with chocolate wedges.

Discover our Must-Have Cake for October.
It's heavenly goodness all over!

Whatever the celebration,
It's more beautiful
with a Red Ribbon

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Promo period: October 1 to 31, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3092, Series of 2007.

Reaching toward my goal

Text us your feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

FACIAL Care family Mimi and George Siy, Sayuri Sea Princess, Jackylyn Share and Angeline Fiechter. Taken by Raymund Isaac

UNLIKE ANY OTHER CREATURE ON earth, humans have a unique capacity to create their own reality. We have the ability to envision what we want, and in a fascinating psychological twist, some of us can actually behave as if the goal has already been achieved.

There is actually a scientific explanation to all this, but I wonder if any of my readers are interested to slog through it on this wonderful Sunday morning when we should be watching **Manny Pacquiao** anyway. So instead, here's the short answer: it's mind over matter!

For instance, I've been training for two months for my first marathon. Naturally, I feel that my state of mind is as important as my actual physical training. So I think about crossing the finish line, instead of cluttering my brain with negative images like getting cramps. This way, half the marathon battle has already been won.

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

I was looking forward to doing a duet with Ate Vi, singing her classic, 'I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus'

Of course, no goal is achievable without dedication. My running coach, triathlete champion **Ani de Leon**, has taught me to be passionate about the training. Even on dark, rainy days when it is quite difficult to get into the mood to run, focus is the key.

25 years of beauty care

In some ways, this single-minded focus and dedication are the same keys to business success. In fact, when a quarter of a century has been dedicated to that same objective, there is no way one can lose, as in the case of Facial Care Centre.

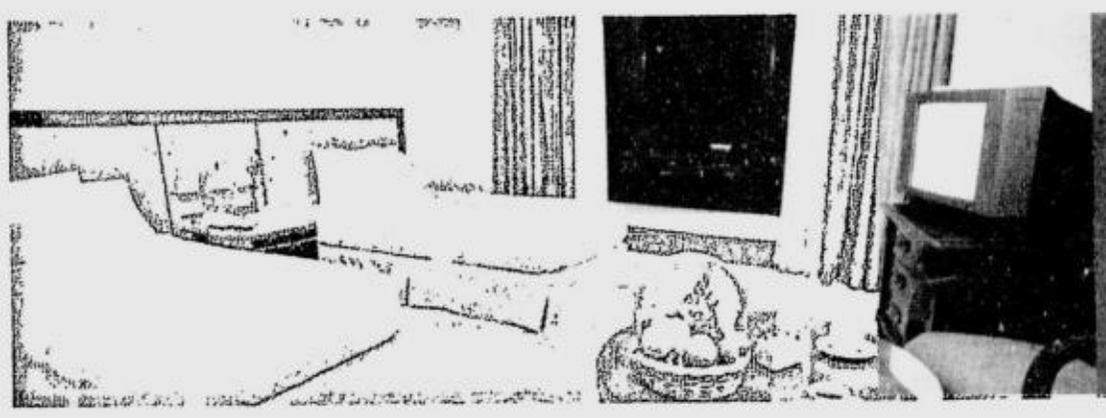
With beauty as the main objective of their business, Facial Care Centre has made significant contributions to the industry of professional skincare in the last 25 years. Facial Care Centre is the only skincare cen-

REACHING/ D4

GUEST of honor Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto and celebrating photographer Raymund Isaac

MARIE France endorser Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo and husband Rep. Anton Lagdameo

TOP daytime TV hosts Boy Abunda and Kris Aquino



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Date the release and indicate whether it is for immediate use or for a later date. Include your name and phone number(s).

To avoid duplication, indicate if you have sent the same material to more than one section of the INQUIRER.

Photos must be of high resolution in JPEG format. Follow-up calls are not necessary. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph.

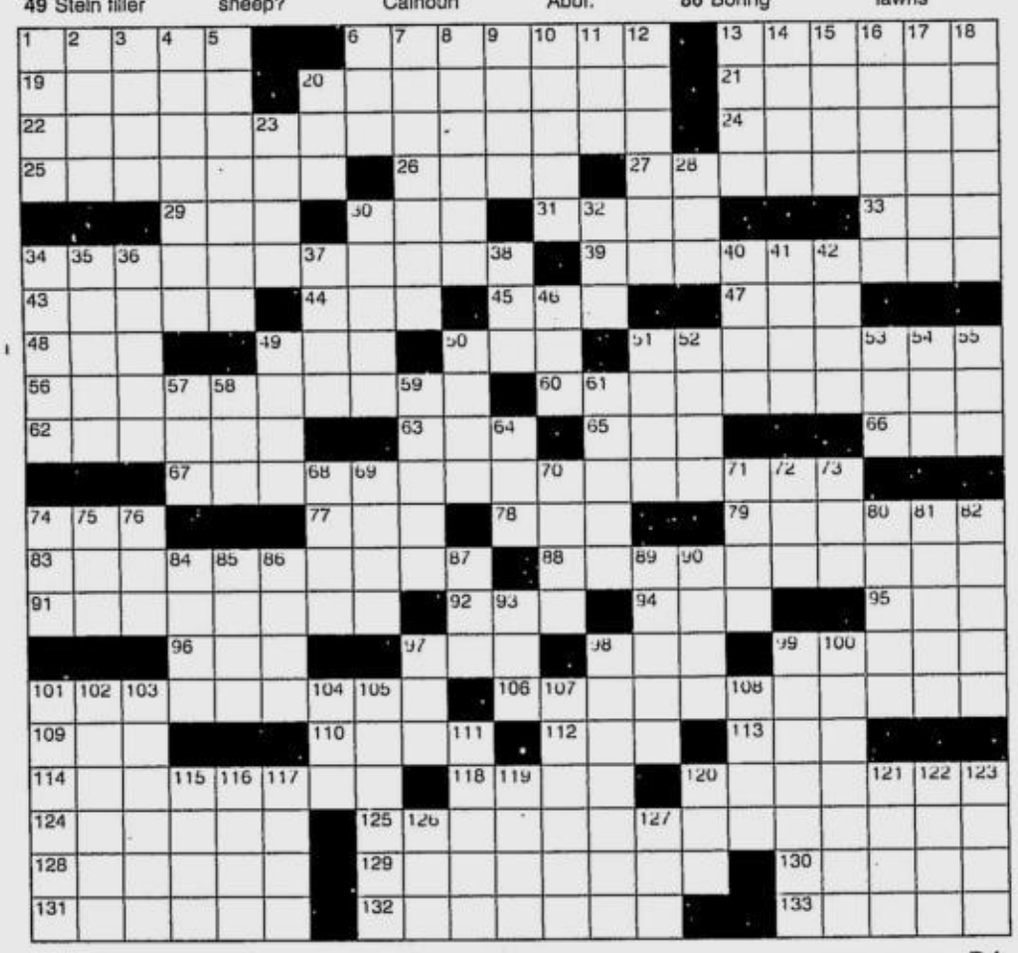
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, OCT. 7, 2007

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — **PLEASE DO FEED THE ANIMALS**

ACROSS
1 Third Greek letter
6 Major fame
13 Dog's bark
19 Actor Delon
20 Military branch
21 Rub down
22 Orange roots for tropical birds?
24 Lathered (up)
25 Will subjects
26 Deposits, as eggs
27 Crawling
29 Rebel Guevara
30 Skillet spray
31 Swedish auto
33 China's Mao — -tung
34 Leafy veggies for finbacks?
39 Baked goods for insects?
43 Misanthrope
44 — pickle
45 Choose, with "for"
47 N.Y.C. subway org.
48 Songwriter DiFranco
49 Stein filler
50 Tomahawk
51 Showing on TV again
56 Buns for yard pests?
60 Berries for primates?
62 Quashes
63 Clock numeral
65 Med. specialty
66 Lab eggs
67 Pastries for dogs?
74 O'er and o'er
77 Hot mo.
78 Women with kids
79 Collie of TV
83 Cheeses for parasites?
88 Fruits for bruins?
91 Soldiers' pits
92 Nos. that are high for geniuses
94 Be prostrate
95 Sky streaker
96 Get — (score well)
97 Ease off
98 Prefix with night
99 Alan Ladd western
101 Pork for sheep?
106 Desserts for reptiles?
109 Flurry
110 Fewer
112 Golfing rarity
113 "Bali —" ("South Pacific" tune)
114 Disneyland transport
118 Narrow wood strip
120 Eat away at
124 More valiant
125 Drupes for worms?
128 Trickery
129 Switchboard employee
130 Fabricated
131 Bedecks
132 Stopped sleeping
133 Robbed

DOWN
1 Stare slack-jawed
2 Cry of pity
3 Trade center
4 Marvel
5 One more
6 "Get him, Spot!"
7 Singing syllables
8 Chalet style, often
9 Actor Calhoun
10 Smeltery waste
11 Nov. lead-in
12 Peyote source
13 Despicable
14 Double-reed instrument
15 Envelop
16 American elk
17 Danish port
18 Lime pieces
20 Burro
23 Summer shirts
28 Baseball hitting stat
30 Jury list
32 Fore and —
34 Hits hard
35 Vietnamese capital
36 Off-kilter
37 Metric mass
38 Boston Red —
40 Webzine
41 Mix
42 Prefix with normal or legal
46 Soup spherule
49 River of Pisa
50 Sale caveat
51 Brand of contact lens solution
52 Founded: Abbr.
53 NASDAQ debut
54 Reno loc.
55 Org. with Brownies
57 Sci-fi ability
58 U.S.-Canadian canals
59 Feudal lord
61 Intrinsically
64 Suffix of tenets
68 Challenge
69 Film director Bunuel
70 Keep — on (watch)
71 In addition
72 — of luxury
73 Flagstaff-to-Tucson dir.
74 Erroneous
75 Waitress on "Alice"
76 Cowboy's nickname
80 "Wheel of Fortune" host Pat
81 Cara or Castle
82 — Park, Colorado
84 "Moby-Dick" captain
85 Half the Brady kids
86 Boring
87 Close relative, for short
89 Similar
90 Cabbie's offering
93 Ball-passing NFLers
97 Curvy letter
98 Heavy knife
99 Jewelry beetles
100 Dis-tressing event?
101 11th Greek letter
102 Loved to bits
103 Country on the coast of France
104 Ring legend Muhammad
105 Full-flavored
107 Tony winner Lane
108 Loafer, e.g.
111 Glossy
115 On top of
116 Horse halter
117 A&E part
119 Farming unit
120 "ER" skill
121 Xenia locale
122 Small valley
123 Villa d'—, Tivoli
126 Eco-friendly org.
127 Turf for lawns



answer on page D4

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

150th anniversary of apparitions

THE CITY OF LOURDES in France continues to receive thousands of pilgrims as various activities are being held until Feb. 11, 2008, to mark the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady to Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year-old peasant girl.

Our Lady told Bernadette during one of 18 apparitions that she was the "Immaculate Conception." She told Bernadette to scratch the ground. When a spring of water appeared, she told the girl to drink the water and wash herself.

Today, pilgrims drink the water hoping for cures and blessings. Others put it in bottles to bring home. Some 400,000 visitors a year immerse themselves in the water inside bath houses.

During the 15th apparition, Our Lady told Bernadette to tell the priest to build a chapel and have people come in a procession.

The Blessed Mother's request was granted. Now, pilgrims pray in the church and walk inside the grotto.

Many have debilitating illnesses or handicaps and are searching for cures. People also come for spiritual healing. Every night, thousands of pilgrims participate in a torchlight procession.

Hospitalliers, the name given to volunteers in Lourdes, help the sick join the procession.

The Church has attributed at least 65 genuine miracles, mostly involving healing, due to the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes. Many more cases are being investigated.

CANCER survivor Olive Lopez during her visit to Our Lady of Lourdes grotto in France; (above) Virgen de los Remedios, patroness of Pampanga

Healed

Olive Castro Lopez, manager of the Cash Department of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, attributes her miraculous cure of cancer to Our Lady of Lourdes and to St. Padre Pio.

In 2001, after a Mass at BSP, she suddenly felt dizzy. At the Manila Doctors Hospital, she was diagnosed with cancer. She had three chemotherapy sessions and 27 radiotherapy treatments at Makati Medical Center.

In 2002, Olive left with 81 other pilgrims for Rome to attend the canonization of St. Padre Pio. The group went to Lourdes where Olive was submerged in the bathtub with water from the miraculous spring.

She said she cried all the time, touching the image above the bathtub and praying for a miraculous cure. She later sat in front of the grotto and just stared at Our Lady of Lourdes for an hour. She suddenly felt like she was floating.

When she had her checkup, Dr. Antonio Villalon was shocked to find her cured. Today, Olive continues to serve as commentator for Masses at BSP and Harrison Plaza Chapel, now serving with more fervor to thank the Lord.

Miracle in Angeles

Josephine Miranda of Mexico, Pampanga, recalled what happened last Sept. 8, during the reenactment of the coronation of the Virgen de los Remedios in Nepo Mart Quadrangle in Angeles City.

The Mass by Archbishop Aniceto should have started at 3 p.m., but it rained and people got wet. At 4 p.m., the rain suddenly stopped and the people got dry fast. Host of the event was the Holy Rosary Parish in Angeles City.

The Virgin is going around barrio chapels of Sto. Domingo de Guzman Parish until Oct. 11. It will be transferred after the 6 a.m. Mass from Sta. Maria Chapel in Mexico to San Luis Gonzaga Church.

The Santo Cristo del Perdon goes with the Virgen de los Remedios during the visits. Thanks to Tom Joven for the photo of the Virgin.

Trip to Holy Land

Msgr. Esteban "Bong" Lo will lead a group from the Manila Filipino-Chinese Parishes Laity Association in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Egypt and Jordan. The tour is on Nov. 11-23.

Participants will get the chance to climb Mt. Sinai, where Moses received the Ten Commandments; appreciate the gold treasures of Tutankhamen in Cairo, go around an Egyptian village, shop at one of the biggest Arab bazaars, and see the monastery of the "burning bush." Contact Adams Express Travel at 5211651/98/38.

Fr. Benjo Fajota, campus minister of St. Anthony Parochial School in Singalong, Manila, has been invited to be chaplain of the pilgrimage to Israel, Jordan and Egypt Nov. 5-16. Call 9106224 or text Ching Nejal at 0919-4306635.

Goodbye, Marie

Angels fetched Sis. Marie Pantoja on Oct. 2, their feast day. Sister Marie, a servant leader of God Loves Catholic Charismatic Community, died of complications from dengue fever. I will miss her terribly.

Condolence to Boy Pantoja, her husband; her children and God Loves members. Bro. Robert Castañeda, who founded the community with Marie in 1991, is devastated. Let's pray for the repose of her soul.

New priests

Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan will ordain the following deacons Oct. 18, 10 a.m., at Basilica Minore of Our Lady of Piat: Rev. Jelito Caparas, EHM; Rev. Glenn Mercado, EHM; Rev. Johmer Faderanga, EHM; and diocesan deacons Rev. Andres Semana Jr. and Rev. Orlando Mallillin. The Eucharistic Healers of Mary will now have three new priests to help Fr. Lorenzo Marzo, rector and formator.

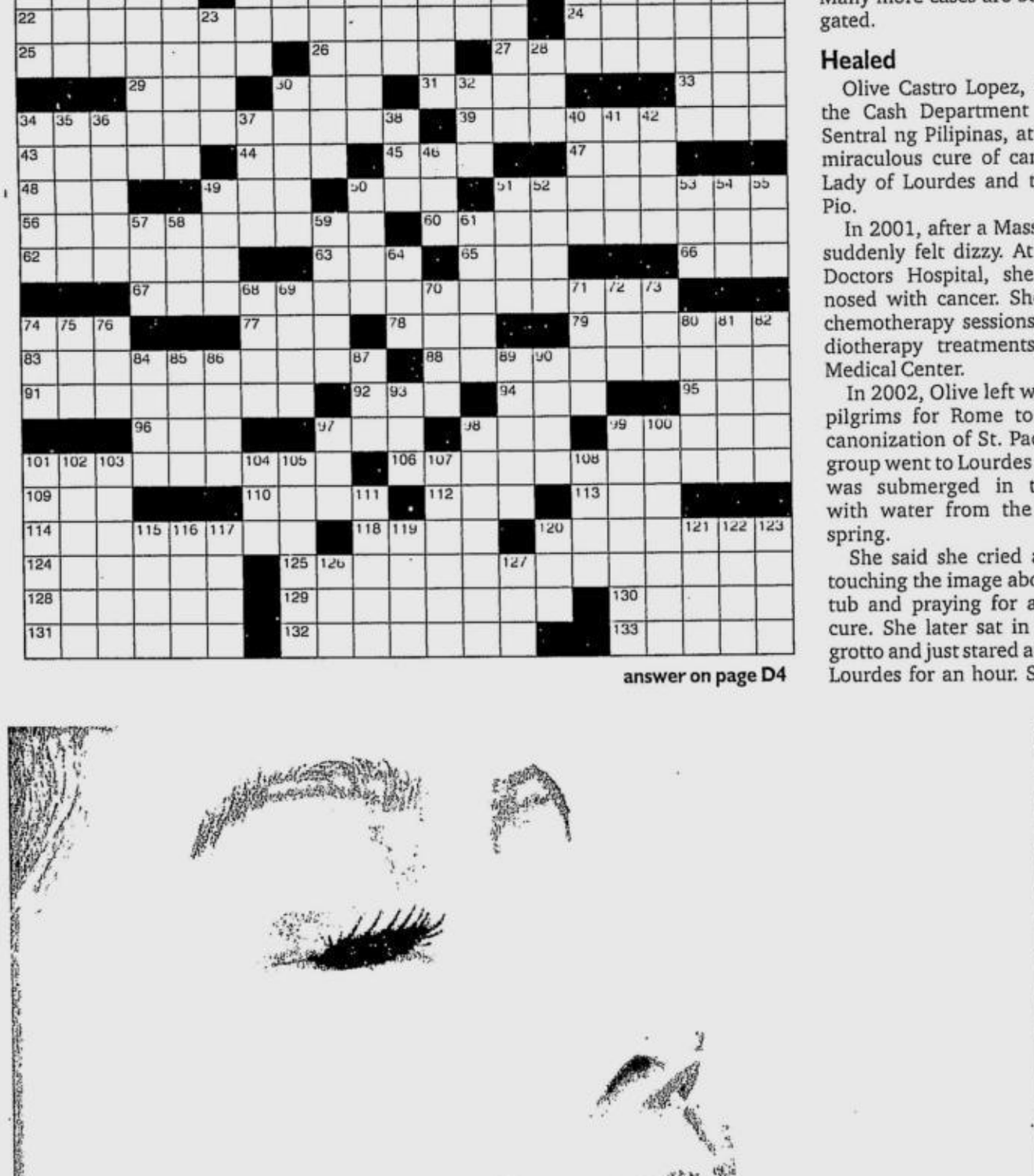
Thanks to Fely and Rey Calimbas, the theologians of EHM have a home at Casa San José, Road 8, in front of Mt. Carmel Parish. Those who wish to help the seminarians can text Father Marzo at 0921-4990244. Thank you for your kindness.

Mass

Pregnant women, those who want to conceive or those who want a safe delivery are invited to Our Lady of La Leche Mass Oct. 11, 5:30 p.m., at Harrison Plaza Chapel.

The Mass for Our Lady of Rosa Mistica is on Oct. 12 at the HP Chapel.

Today, St. Scholastica's College will give awards for music. The Sr. Baptista Battig centennial awards will be given to Leonor Kilayko, Fr. Manuel P. Maramba, OSB; and Virginia Laico Villanueva.



EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Other women's morals are their own concern

DEAR EMILY,

Why do women, married and with children to raise, succumb to an affair?

In my mind, it is obviously the woman's fault that she goes astray, no one else's. I know someone who is having an affair.

Should I or should I not tell the husband? So sad that this kind of decadence is creeping into many Filipino families. I wish women will see the need for strengthening family ties not just by providing material needs but also by providing role models who are morally upright and God-fearing individuals.

M.A.

Are you not being too hard on your fellow women in this instance? Many of them are truly loyal and bearers of strength in the family. We will never know the circumstances that drive them to have affairs. And I do not agree that they all go into these illicit activities solely because of sheer promiscuousness.

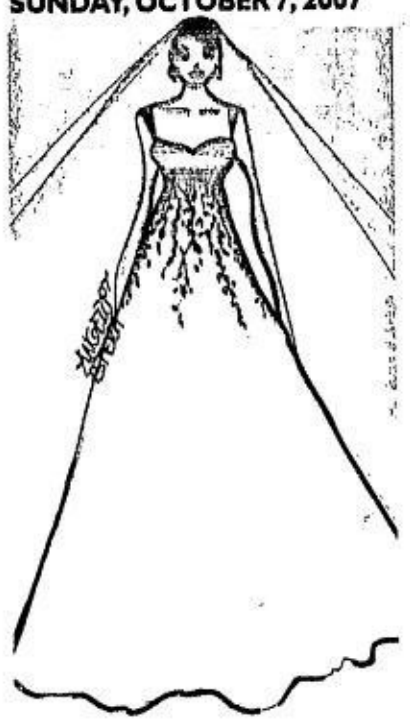
Women are human beings who have needs, dreams, desires. Have you factored in the contribution of husbands in the unhappiness of their wives? Many of these men have unspeakable characteristics themselves and most of their women take them—gall and all.

This woman you are referring to could be having issues with her marriage and has stayed on solely for the sake of her kids. She may have taken a lover to help her carry the load of her unhappiness. This clearly shouldn't be the solution, but as a saying goes, "different strokes for different folks."

How do you know the husband isn't sanctioning this affair of his wife? Some husbands turn the other way and give their wives a long leash to pursue their weaknesses—just so she won't abandon this semblance of a family. What if it were the other way around? How sure are you the husband isn't having an affair himself? Would you be telling the wife then?

Some marital issues are better left untouched by third parties. The lyrics of a song, "unless you're sleeping between two people, you don't know what they think," couldn't be more true. What would be the point in your telling? That push comes to shove? What's your stake in this anyway? Is the woman having an affair with your husband? That would then be a whole different ballgame.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Log on to www.pbs.gov.ph and listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.



CORDOVA-ZAMUDIO

Patrick Louise Cordova, son of **Arturo** and **Teresita Cordova**, will wed **Franchini Vina Zamudio**, daughter of **Mario** and **Nonalyn Nena Zamudio**, Nov. 17 at Mary The Queen Church, Greenhills, San Juan. Reception will follow at Wack Wack Golf and Country Club House, Wack Wack Village, Mandaluyong City. The bride will wear a gown made of white silk gazar designed by **Angelo Estera**.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

ACBANG-ABAD

Archie Acbang, son of **Bernardo Acbang** (deceased) and **Lucia M. de Guzman**, wed **Cecilia Abad**, daughter of **Cenon Abad Sr.** (deceased) and **Juanita Cayetano**, at Sto. Rosario Parish Church, Tanza, Cavite. Reception was held at Pilita's Restaurant.

25TH ANNIVERSARY

Arnel and **Thess Manganti** recently celebrated their silver wedding anniversary at Madre De Dios Chapel, Tagaytay Midlands, Tagaytay City. A dinner followed at Midlands Veranda.

Live-in seminar for troubled couples

RETROUVAILLE PHILIPPINES OFFERS A live-in weekend for troubled couples Oct. 12-14 at Mother of Mercy Spiritual Center, SVD Road, Tagaytay City. The international ministry for healing troubled marriages is inviting husbands and wives who are hurting, disillusioned, frustrated, and angry with their spouses, and who have drifted apart emotionally.

Call 0918-9020511 and 5250308; 9318313 and 0918-9232973; 9389719 or 0916-4438346; 6815746 or 0916-3954642. All calls will be held in strict confidence.

The Retrouvaille program started in Quebec, Canada, in 1977. It has been brought to the United States and other countries, including the Philippines. It has helped thousands of couples not only rebuild their relationship but also save their families.

Couples from as far as Hong Kong and Australia have attended the Retrouvaille program in Manila.

WPPP sets 4th Photo Congress

THE WEDDING AND PORTRAIT PHOTOGraphers of the Philippines Inc. will hold its fourth annual Photo Congress Oct. 22-24 at Megatrade Hall 3, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

With the theme "Imaging to the Highest Level," the congress includes seminars, trade shows and photo exhibits.

Seminar topics include On-Line Marketing, Convert Your Hobby to Profit, Wedding Photography Digital Workflow, How to Market Your Photography Business, Timeshifting Editing Techniques, Achieving the Film Look with Video.

Lecturers include Lito Sy, Jorge Maniquis, Dino Lara, Ariel Javelosa, Richel Mascariñas, Lito Genilo, Jun Miranda, Jason Magbanua, Raymund Marcelo, Edwin Tuyay, Lee Llamas and Robert Lester Aliscad.

The congress will have a whole-day master class Oct. 25 featuring the father-and-son team of Australian photographers Martin and Ryan Schembri.

Martin, a 25-year veteran, is recognized as one of Australia's finest wedding and portrait photographers. He won recently in both wedding and portrait categories within the same year in the annual print competition Wedding & Portrait Photographers International.

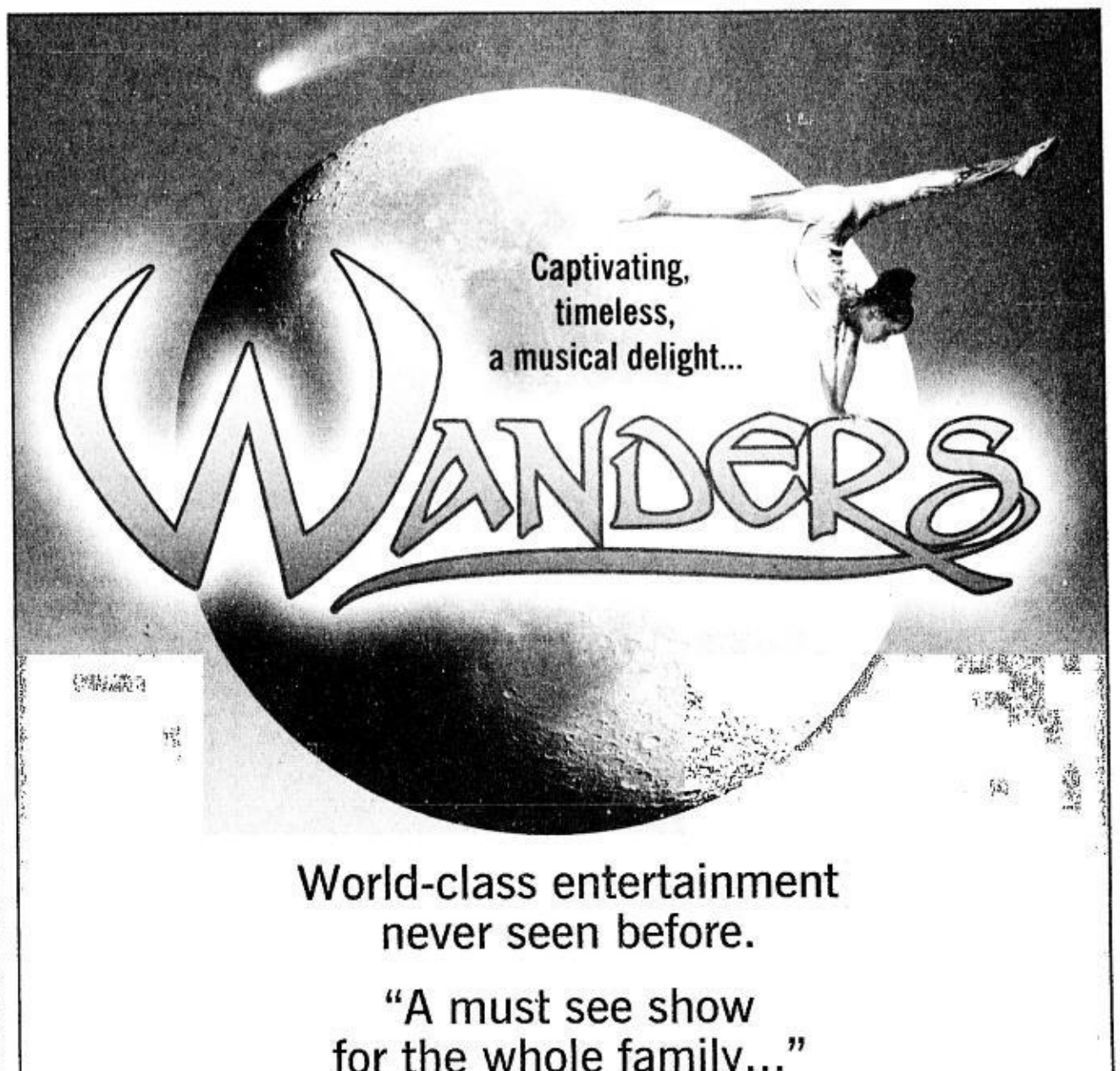
Ryan is the youngest Master of Photography of the Australian Institute of Professional Photographers (AIPP) and the youngest winner of the Wedding Photographer of the Year award of the New South Wales AIPP.

During the WPPP, there will be wedding photo and video contests. Entries should be submitted to the WPPP Secretariat on or before Oct. 10. Winners will be announced on the last day of the congress.

WEDDING photography will be one of the subjects covered at the WPPP congress.

The event is supported by Kodak, Sony, Hewlett-Packard, Canon, Nikon, Graphic Sales Center, The Book, Olympus, Orange Digital Papers and Ynzal Marketing Corp.

Formed in 2001, the WPPP (www.photocongress.com.ph, 4105561; 0917-7438949) is the biggest group of wedding and portrait photographers and videographers in the country.



Photographer makes weddings rock

THE ADAGE "BIG THINGS COME IN small packages" holds very true for Wally Gonzales, not the '70s rocker but the photographer with a smiling face and a down-to-earth disposition who makes weddings rock.

Wedding photographer Wally Gonzales shines bright as he talks about his craft with enthusiasm. Upon seeing his marvelous photo archives, the sheer artistry of this guy is obviously extraordinary. Gonzales is among today's in-demand wedding photographers who counts as his clients some of Manila's elite and the country's top celebrities. This year is his silver anniversary as a professional photographer.

Having a professional photographer for a father sealed the fate of this guy who got interested in photography at the tender age of 8. Gonzales considered the darkroom his playground and enjoyed the scent of chemicals as if it were somewhat like "eau de cologne." In no time, Gonzales became his father's trusted apprentice and, as a boy wonder at age 12, he bagged his first wedding coverage.

While other boys his age had to join the basketball team and what-have-yous to build their confidence and budding machismo, Gonzales, who knew he could never be varsity material or math wizard, always carried his camera everywhere he went as some sort of a security blanket, discovering self-assertion, even winning the attention of campus beauties along the way. By the time he finished high school and while in college, Gonzales was already a professional photographer and earning money on his own. After college, he further honed his craft to become a photojournalist, covering police beats, sports, aerial and advertising photography for some of the most distinguished broadsheets in the country.

It is through his wide gamut of experiences that he is able to create exciting and distinctive photographs. Employing all the skills and expertise he has gained through the years, he eventually focused on the wedding-coverage industry and the rest is history.

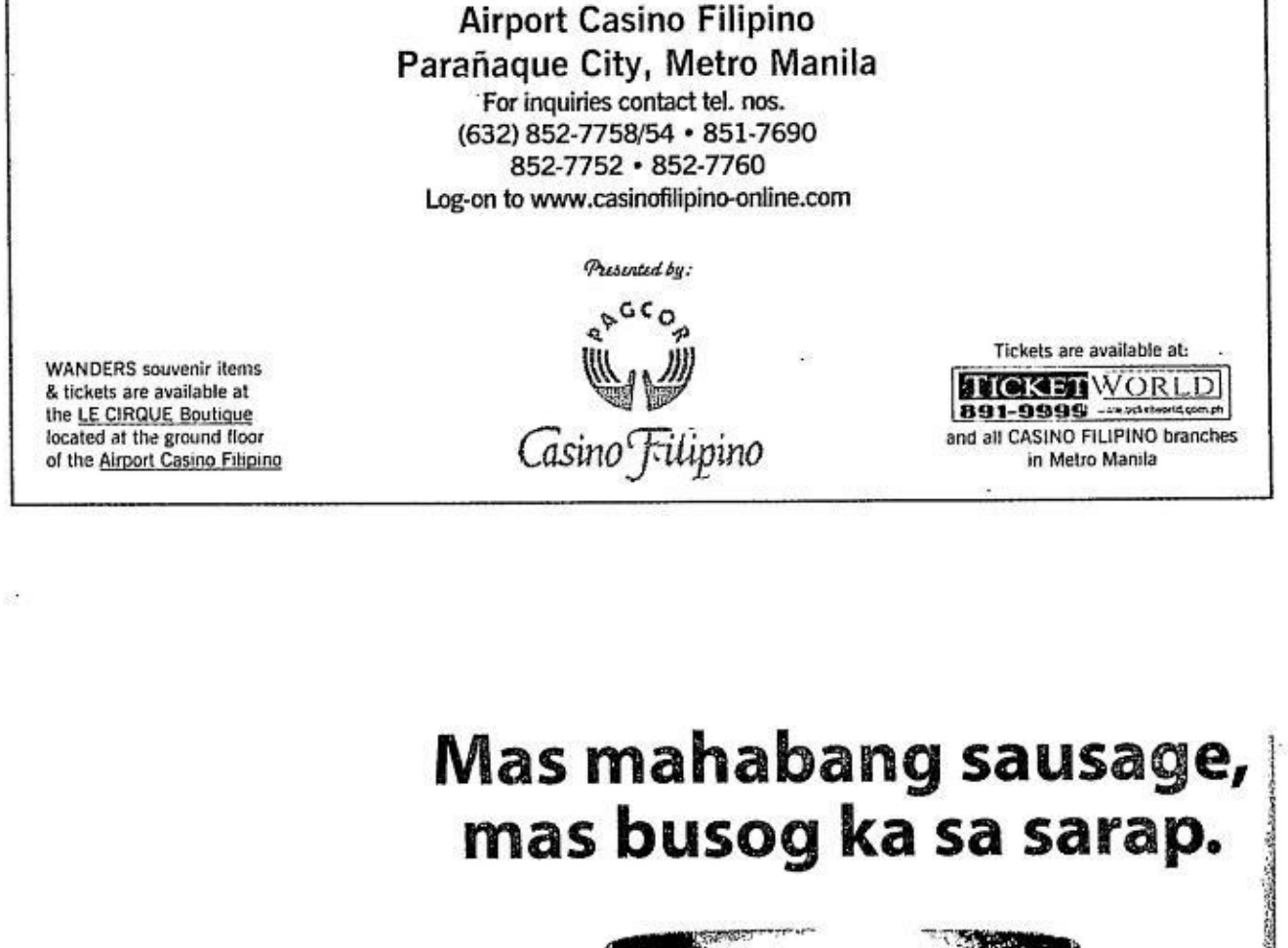
A man who loves a challenge, Gonzales chose the field of wedding photography since it employs almost all the disciplines of photography—from photojournalism to fashion, from interior to travel.

He employs all these knowledge he has gained through the years in every wedding he covers—capturing all the dramatic moments as they happen. He perfectly understands that a wedding is a once-in-a-lifetime event.

When asked the reason for his success, Gonzales says, "I believe it's my dedication to my chosen craft and my passion to shoot. I am giving my heart in everything I do. It's as simple as that."

Gonzales leads the country's top photographers in a showcase of current works called "Weddings.. Get Set... Go! The Coziest Bridal Fair" Year 5, Oct. 13-14 at Rockwell Tent, Rockwell Center, Makati City. Presented by Angel's Wink Events & Planners, Auffrance Catering, Wedding Essentials Magazine, and Scents and Blends Fragrances, the event will feature top wedding suppliers and will be hosted by former Tux man Paulo Clemente.

Visit www.angelswink.biz or call 5469477.



SINGING friends Philip Ng, Beng and Rikki Dee, and Malou Ng

FRIENDLY gang Luis L.A. Lopez, Bianca Santos, Gian Carlo de Leon and Ramon Tuason

TALENTED fashion designers and makeup artists with Ate Vi and Raymund Isaac (center) at the party

MARIE France endorser Aiko Melendez flanked by Wency Lagumbay and Pepsi Herrera

Reaching toward...

From page D1

ter that has the most advanced, non-surgical, skincare technology, keeping everyone's beautiful and influential faces more glamorous.

With the same dedication and years of focus, but this time in the field of photography, top lens man **Raymund Isaac** has become a leading photographer. How apropos then that the two should combine forces to immortalize beauty.

Their partnership was recently celebrated in a mega photo exhibit and book launch at the Ayala Museum, entitled "XXV: The Beauty Event." The show captured our country's most stunning ladies keeping their skin forever radiant and preserved through the magic of photography.

Facial Care Centre president **George T. Siy** has had many campaigns with Raymund's photos over the past two and a half decades. He and Raymund share the same beauty vision, pursuit of excellence and commitment to their clients.

As a further testament to George's dedication, I must also note this paper's debt of gratitude to him—for being one of the few advertising stalwarts who refused to join the Erap-inspired ad boycott of the INQUIRER in 2001. Thank you, George! What would page three be without you?

Facial Care Centre invited all its beautiful clients and endorsers to celebrate this momentous occasion with an awesome photo display of theatrical themes all taken by Raymund. Beauty and power have never been represented so brilliantly as at this joint party.

Gov. **Vilma Santos-Recto** and Sen. **Loren Legarda** led the ribbon-cutting and welcomed the A-list crowd. Facial Care Centre endorsers **Ana Roces**, **Cherie Gil** and **Amina Aranaz-Alunan** were posing next to their amazing photos looking like medieval princesses. But the new face of FCC—**Kris Aquino**—brought the most attention whilst looking blissfully happy with ever-charming **James Yap**.

The stormy weather did not stop the crowd from enjoying the evening, especially with **Robert Sena** and **Verni Varga** soulfully jazzing up the night with their songs. Besides there were innumerable raffle prizes constantly distributed by master emcee **Boy Abunda**, including Tiffany jewelry, Louis Vuitton bags and Facial Care and Marie France gift certificates.

Duet with Ate Vi

I bumped into Ate Vi and invited her to be my "Celebrity Duets" partner, since I have amazingly survived this far. Unfortunately her schedule couldn't fit in the show. And I was so looking forward to singing her classic, "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus." Always a true lady of class, Ate Vi even sent flowers and a note—"next season, perhaps?"

I was lucky enough to be included in the show, with Raymund photographing me as a geisha goddess. I've always enjoyed our photo shoots, from being a carrot-topped cover girl in Metro many years ago to our latest project—making my oft-recolored hair look something plausible as the image model of Svenson International. He really knows how to bring out my inner glow and click at that precise moment.

His book, "Dimsum," was launched that evening and given to the guests as a memento. I will surely be looking forward to bigger, bolder and more beautiful partnerships between Facial Care Centre and Raymund Isaac.

Josh, gosh

My world has been surrounded with so much music lately. After watching the high-energy, hip-hop concert of awesome **Billy Crawford** last night, I now have the upcoming concert of **Josh Groban** to look forward to.

"Josh Groban, Live at the PICC," is on Oct. 17 and 18. Smart Infinity presents this musical genius singing tracks from his self-titled, debut album, along with other special sponsors like Philtown Properties. Groban's talent for drama, romance and emotional resonance is felt in every song. This concert will truly be a beautiful one.

The first night is an exclusive Smart Infinity event. Subscribe to Smart Infinity or avail of your Infinity retention package and receive two VIP tickets or two premium tickets bundled with a Nokia 6300 handset.

For tickets for the Oct. 18 show, call Ticketworld at 0918-9414217. Ticket buyers using their Citibank Credit Cards can avail of a 10-percent discount. Another promo is to buy a watch from Montre Watch Shop (tel. 5560404) in order to get some free tickets.

Which brings me back to visualizing my own reality—can you imagine me singing with Josh Groban in the finals of "Celebrity Duets"? Now that would really be mind over matter!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

FACIAL Care beauties Cherie Gil and Carmi Martin with singer Verni Varga

SVENSON image models Georgina Bailet and Eva Abesamis

"CELEBRITY Duets" talent Wyngard Tracy between Shopwise power ladies Frances Yu and Crickette Tantoco

FACIAL Care bosses Angeline Fiechter and Jacklyn Share

SVENSON'S expert staff Luisa Polido, Eena Morena, Carole Prado and Jenny Amancio

FACIAL Care endorsing couple Amina and Raffa Alunan

INQUIRER columnist Maurice Arcache and Ana Roces

FUN couple Patrick and Ingrid Go

JOSH Groban with Smart's Bong Mojica, head of Wireless Center Co.

SMART Infinity's Julie Carceller

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

G	A	M	M	A	■	S	T	A	R	D	O	M	■	B	O	W	W	O	W
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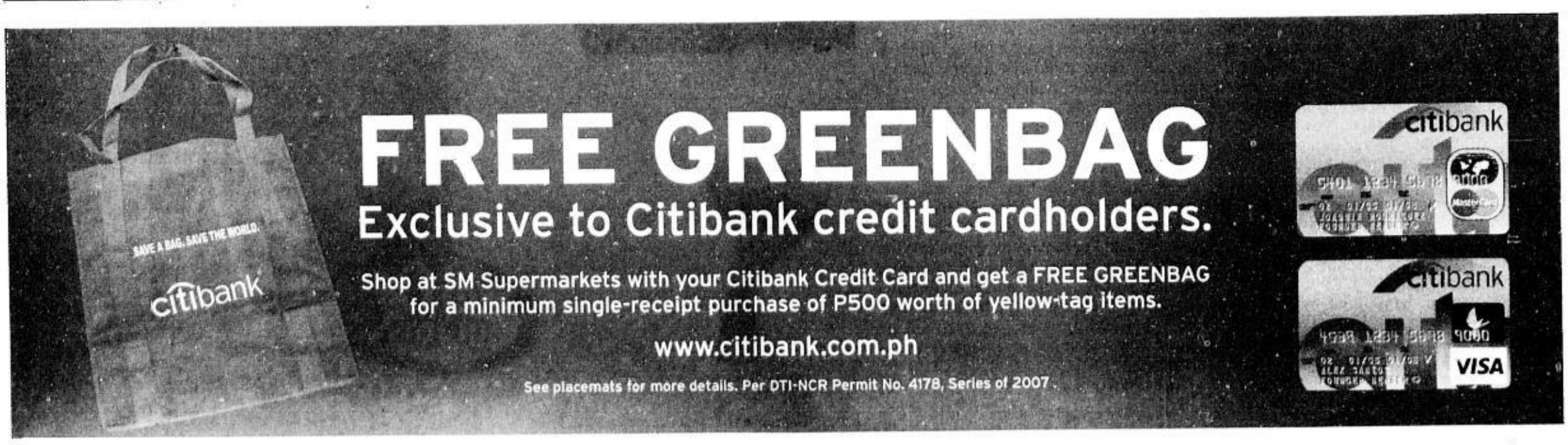

METRO Gaisano at Market! Market! in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig

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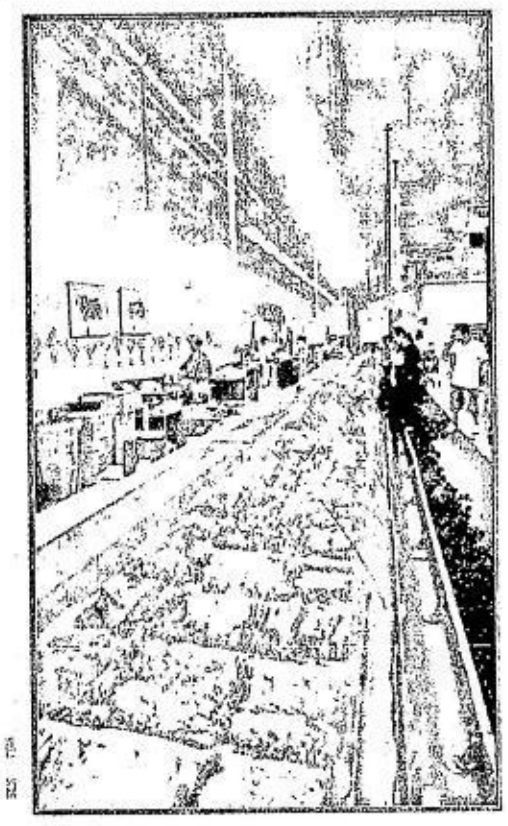
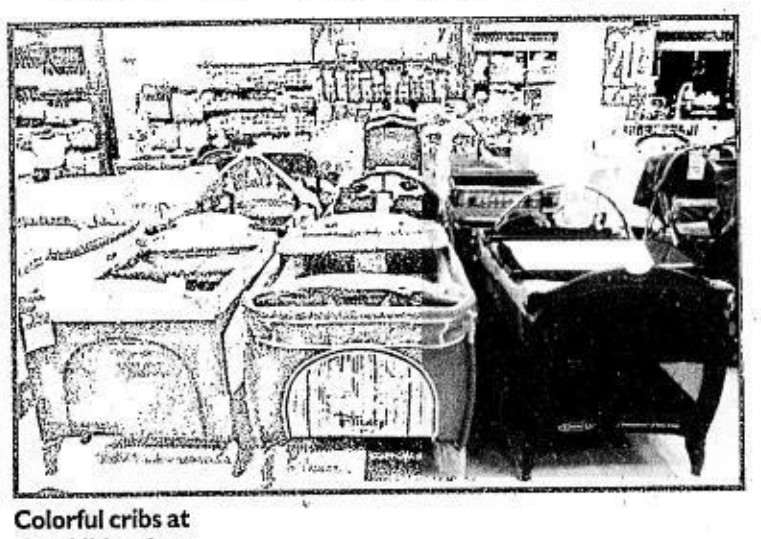




Colorful cribs at the children's section (above); cold cuts at the supermarket (left)

Metro Gaisano is bargain shopping with style

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Ryan Lim

SHOPPERS WHO relentlessly seek out the best deal can flock to Metro Gaisano at Market! Market!, Fort Bonifacio, Global City, Taguig.

"Metro Gaisano at Market! Market! offers a wide array of products and services at very affordable prices. And we have grocery items and furniture pieces that are not available in other supermarkets and department stores," said Ma. Minette Licsi, marketing manager.

Following the trend of supermarkets expanding general merchandise to compete with alternative food formats, the 4-year-old Metro Gaisano at Market! Market! features home-related and health items.

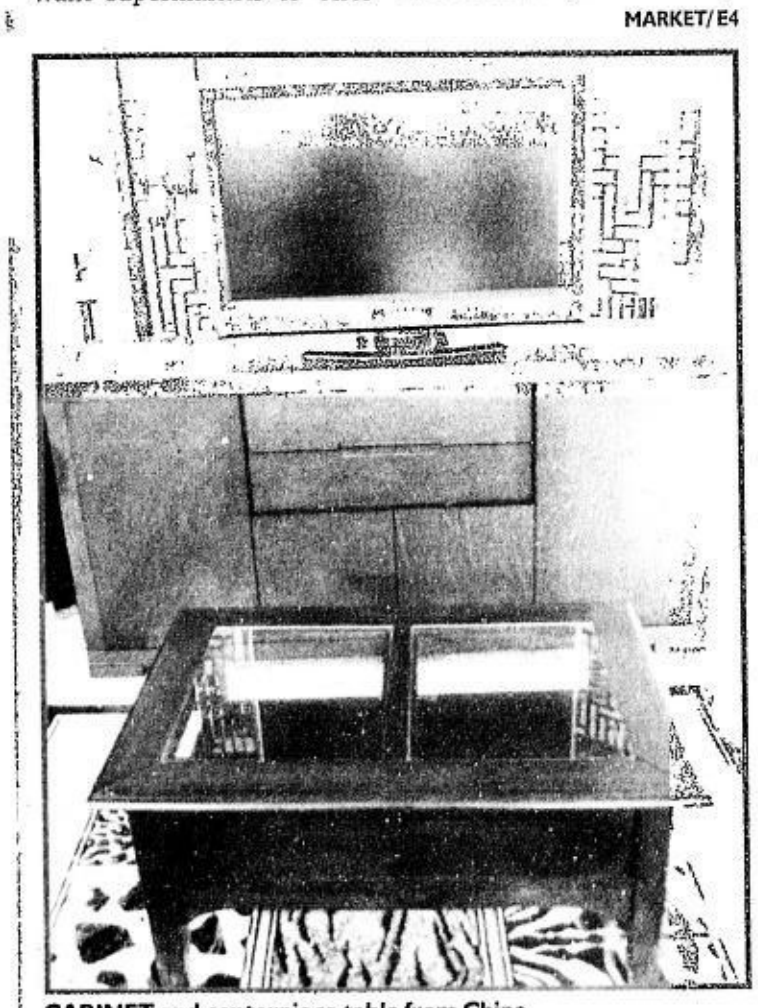
"Customers increasingly want supermarkets to offer other ranges and services in addition to their core food offer," said Cristy Sy, supermarket manager.

Sy added that Metro Gaisano's supermarket is known for food products imported from the United States, Canada, Australia, Korea, China, Thailand, India, Indonesia and Japan. "The bestsellers are the Korean noodles and beer, Japanese sushi, cereals and juices from the US and Canada."

Located at the basement, the supermarket is open 10 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. The area also has a Food Avenue (with 25 specialty kiosks, including the bakeshop Suisse Cottage), liquor store, pharmacy, photo shop, foreign-exchange and customer service.

According to Licsi, the supermarket is celebrating American Festival, which offers discounts on products from the US, until Oct. 25. Christmas Baskets are now also available (tel. 8186642).

MARKET/ E4



CABINET and centerpiece table from China

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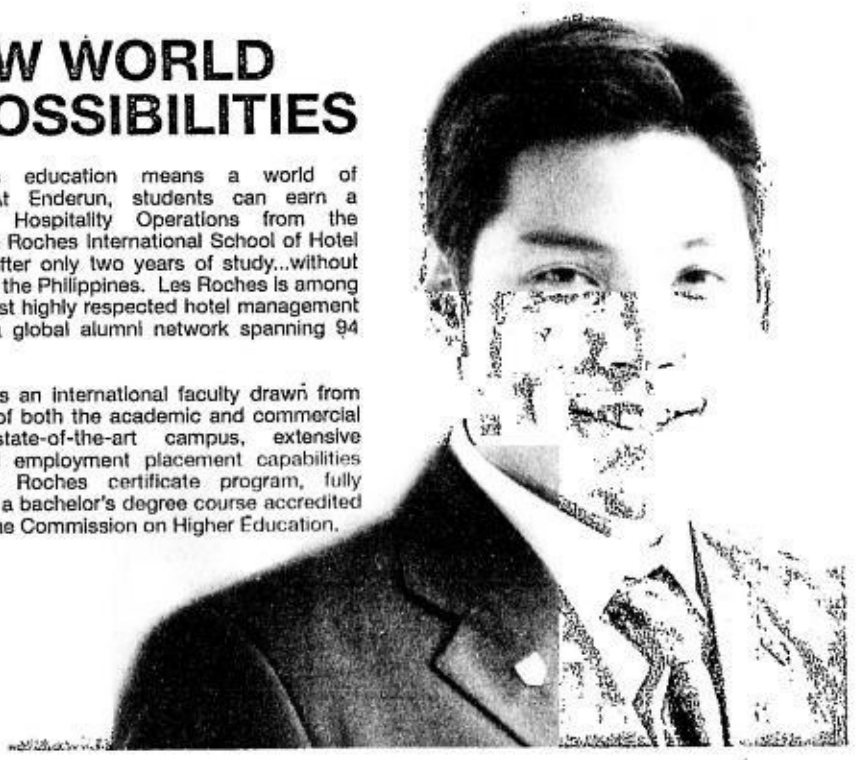

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Lights, colors, textures, moods

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADING interior design schools marks its 40th year with a theme that best sums up its core beliefs and objectives: "Forty, Filipino and Fabulous."

Just like in years past, graduating students of the Philippine School of Interior Design (PSID) have staged a multidimensional interior design exhibit that doubles as their thesis. With the 40th-year theme as their inspiration, 83 students worked in groups of two to six to come up with 19 booths that replicate various living spaces, including bars, nurseries, dens and home theaters.

With the basement of the Paseo Center in Makati (Paseo de Roxas corner Sedeño Street) as its venue, the show runs daily (including Sundays) until Oct. 31. Apart from coming up with original and aesthetically pleasing designs, students had to incorporate or work around furniture pieces provided by members of the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines.

Furniture partners include such established names as Betis Crafts, Imaje, Indigo, Calfurn, Cancio and Victoria, among others. These companies provided the graduates with existing furniture pieces as well as new ones based on each group's design specifications.

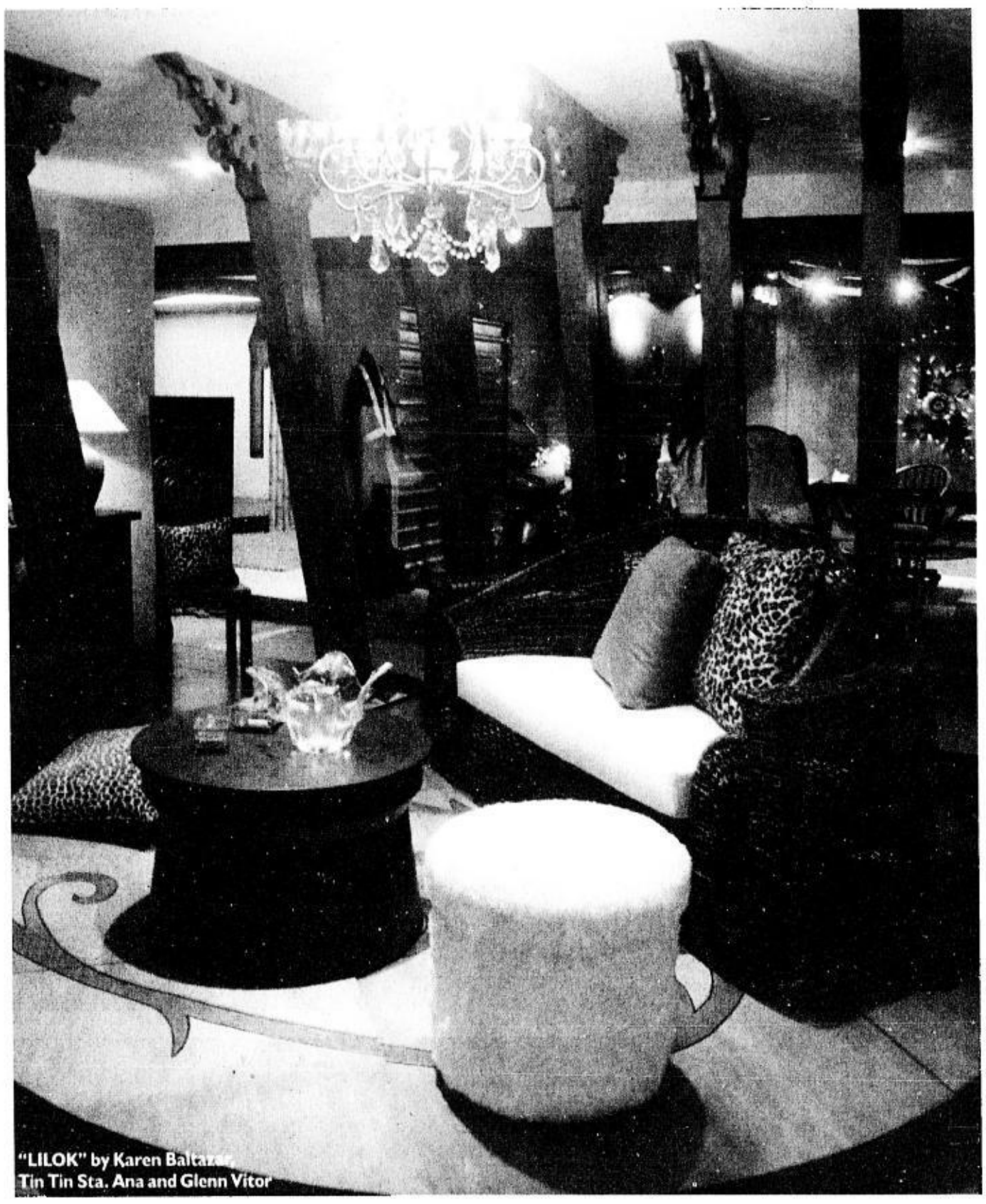
The result is a festival of lights, colors, textures and moods, as each group presents its own unique take on a particular area. Aside from giving people a glimpse of the students' personalities and design sensibilities, the exhibit aims to provide guests with workable design solutions.

Lean pieces

"Bunso," for instance, takes the viewer to a genderless nursery room complete with cabinets with opaque sliding doors and an expandable bed by Victoria. Accents, in the form of *sipa* balls and a huge ceiling mobile, add texture and provide the room with focal points.

Victoria wanted the group to update and expand its line, says group member Letty Ruiz. She and her team composed of mothers, drew from their respective experiences and designed leaner pieces in white and wenge.

Instead of buying more than one crib, couples can settle on a single bed since the group did an expandable piece that can probably last well into the child's days in kindergarten.



"LILOK" by Karen Baltazar, Tin Tin Sta. Ana and Glenn Vitor

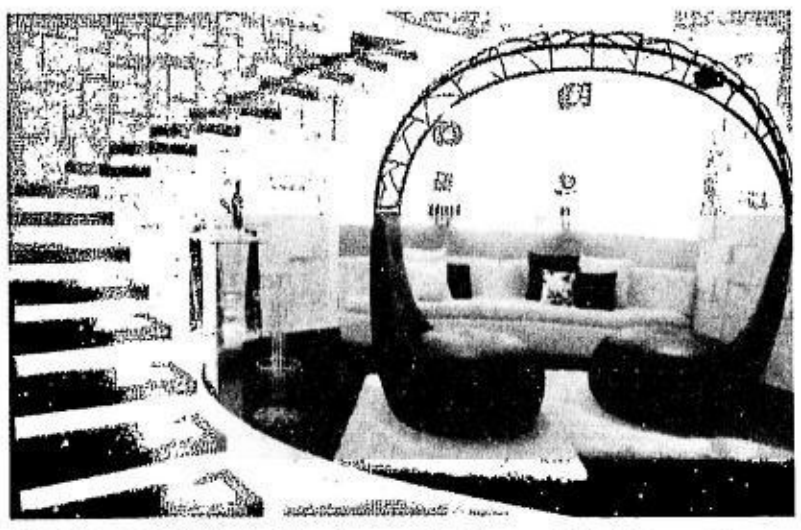
"REKADO" by Eve Buenafe, Ria Cruz, PJ de Leon, Candy Garcia and Rona Unana

"Pelikula," on the other hand, aims to provide its imaginary clients with a functional yet homey entertainment area that's far removed from the typical multiplex. To achieve this, the group combined traditionally crafted furniture made partly of abaca, raffia and even treated banana leaves with cold-looking, high-tech entertainment gadgetry.

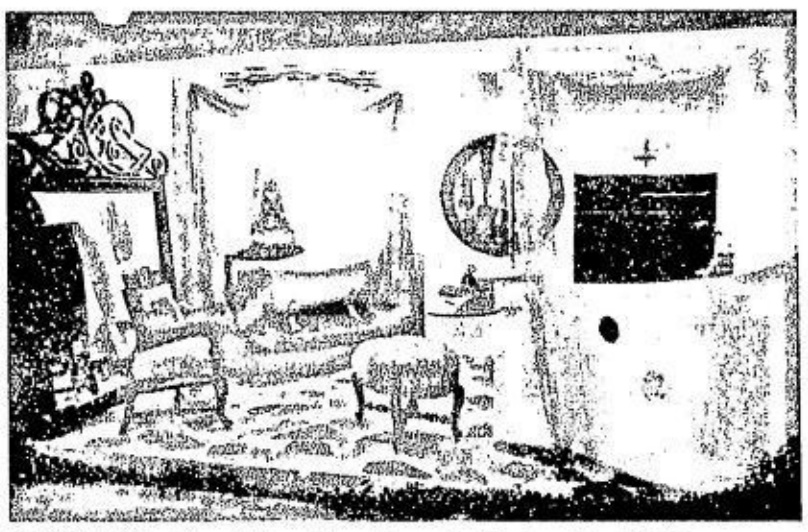
"Silid ni Malakas," a supposed garage converted into a bachelor's den a la Batcave, combines and contrasts concrete walls and floors accented with riveted steel sheets with huge, reclining wooden furniture pieces by Walch's.

Apart from a BMW motorcycle, one of the room's focal points is a wall-mounted artwork made of old gears and dials. Thanks to a great deal of input from their respective partners, the two women who make up the group dared to venture into such a male domain.

As its name implies, "Dekada 40" transports its audience to a bygone era teeming with retro touches, from the padded sofa and ottoman by Indigo to the shiny granite floors. To keep the arrangement from degenerating into a purely black-and-white



"TENGOPONO" by Jay Ann Aragon, Ets Escoto, Kitkat Bisnon, Sugar Verga and Ge Verga



"DIWATA" by Dino Alaba, Carsa Buendia, Audrey Coo, Gie Gorospe and Anne Murphy

"ENTRADA" by Kathleen Añasco, Aza Leah Balagtas, Mark Jeffrey Pecayo, Dianne Sy and Karen Uy

Space for bigger things

AFTER 30 YEARS OF PRODUCing some of the country's best interior designers in a cramped two-story building in Makati, the faculty and staff of the Philippine School of Interior Design (PSID) will soon be moving to a bigger, more student-friendly building in Taguig.

Built from the ground up, the three-story affair on Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio comes with a basement and modest parking area. Once they're fully settled in their new home, school administrators and faculty members led by Rosario Cancio-Yujuico, PSID president, will be introducing a number of specialized art programs next year.

"The move brings us closer to our vision of becoming a specialized art center in the Philippines," says Cancio-Yujuico. "Since we now have the space, we will be offering more seminars and continuing education programs to interested individuals."

Unlike its interior design courses, these specialized programs are shorter—around six to nine months—and designed specifically for craftsmen and artisans. One such program, to be handled by muralist Alfred Galvez, who'll fly to Italy in December to undergo further training, focuses on decorative paint finishes.

OFF to work. Rosario Cancio-Yujuico, second from right, president and administrator of the Philippine School of Interior Design, with faculty members Richard Tan, Edwin Enriquez, Nicky Jardenil, Jie Pambid and Alexie Claparols

"In keeping with our goal to market ourselves as an institution, the programs we will be introducing won't just be about painting," says Victor Ruel Pambid, PSID director for external affairs. "Aside from honing our students to become skilled craftsmen, we want to produce graduates who are thinkers. We want them to turn this knowledge in conceptualization into their own businesses."

Apart from slowly turning into a "creative economy," says Pambid, the country is also entering an age of specialization. As such, PSID plans to introduce a lighting design course two years from now. Beginners need not enroll since the course is designed for practicing interior designers, architects and even engineers.

COMPUTER-AIDED design of PSID's high-ceilinged lobby

More space also means additional room to hold review classes for interior design graduates intending to take the board exams. Because of space constraints, Pambid and company have been catering exclusively to PSID graduates. Thanks to its new and bigger building, this situation will soon be a thing of the past.

"Having been around for only five years, PSID's review classes are fairly new," says Pambid, an aspiring doctor who later shifted to interior design and eventually topped the board in 1994. "But we're getting better in terms of results because we train our graduates to answer design questions well."

With a passing rate of 55 percent (much higher than the national average of 35 to 40 percent), PSID has earned a coveted slot in the "top three," alongside the University of Santo Tomas and the University of the Philippines.

PSID would have earned such an honor sooner, says Pambid, had its earlier batches of successful examinees been credited to it and not to other schools. The confusion stemmed from the fact that PSID, since its inception, only offers interior design subjects.

Students who wish to earn a bachelor's degree in interior design (and, thus, make themselves eligible to take the board) have to cross-enroll with other colleges and universities in order to take up general subjects such as Math, Pilipino and English.

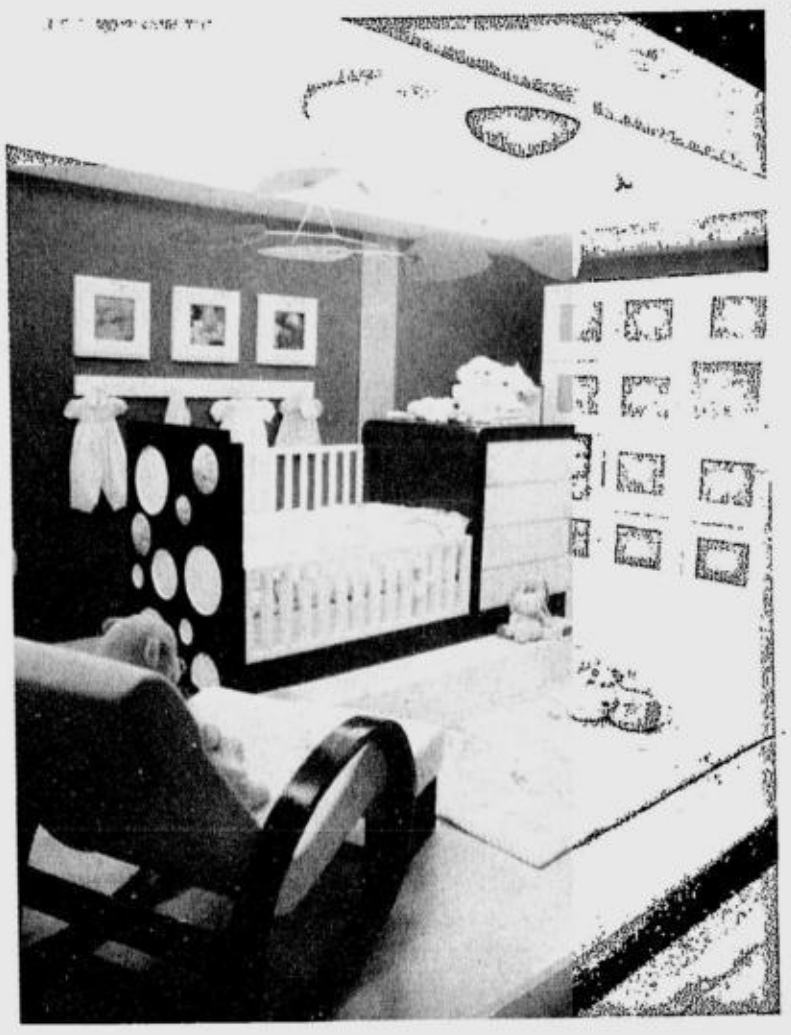
In fact, PSID has an existing arrangement with the College of St. Benilde for this purpose. Moving to bigger digs won't likely change the school's thrust.

"We don't see the need. Most of our students are either college graduates or transferees from other schools," says Pambid. "It's quite seldom that we encounter students fresh out of high school."

With the opening of its new building, PSID also expects an increase in the number of enrollees. Although the school welcomes such a development, it will never sacrifice quality over quantity, Pambid assures.

"It's not easy to run a good interior design school," says Cancio-Yujuico. "For one, it's quite difficult to get qualified interior design teachers because most of the good ones are either reluctant to teach or have gone abroad in search of greener pastures."

Becoming a full-fledged college is also not part of PSID's agenda. Building or no building, it would rather focus on what it does best, which is to provide students with the best interior design education available. *Alex Y. Vergara*



"BUNSO" by Pepen Aquitania, Letty Ruiz, Sam Santiago, Jay Soberano and Cathy Tan

PSID's graduating students present 19 booths that replicate various living spaces, including bars, nurseries, dens and home theaters

"SANGTUARYO" by Rachel Bargayo, Roan Banal, Lulay Gigante, Krystel Gomez, Iris Roldan, Nicole Faustino, Jayvie Felizar and Anna Villacorte

"DALISAY" by Keisha Agdamag, Meanne Catanghal, Annie Lim-Go, Nadia Hemaez, Joana Nalangan and Kat Tan-Jadie

affair, the group added dashes of red to give the living room some spark.

High-end bar

Not all booths are as practical or as predictable in their approaches. Members behind "Silong," which draws inspiration from the downstairs area of a traditional Filipino home, reportedly spent the most to create their idea of a high-end bar complete with lighted acrylic floors.

To achieve its Goth-meets-Pinoy inspiration, the group combined padded ottomans, including the exclusively designed "*balut*" chair, by South Sea Veneer Corp., with tall bar stools made of transparent fiberglass. The area is literally crowned with a network of geometric wooden slats inspired by the *silong*.

Indeed, not a few students rely on an attention-grabbing piece or two to get their messages across. Two such groups are "Rekado" (with its giant wall clock, burnt and overcooked dishes will perhaps become a thing of the past in the kitchen) and "Tengopono."

The latter designed a custom-built two-seater made to look like giant earphones and executed by the Julianne Collection. Together with retro pieces such as vinyl discs (or better known in the olden days as LPs and 45s), the conversation piece sits in the middle of an entertainment room inside a supposed basement.

Getting viewers' attention is equally important as coming up with realistic and livable spaces. After all, the annual event is also known to draw a fair share of potential clients, from homeowners to furniture and home accessories manufacturers, in search of emerging talents.

As part of their extensive training, graduating students of PSID will never pass up the chance to get noticed and hired on the spot.

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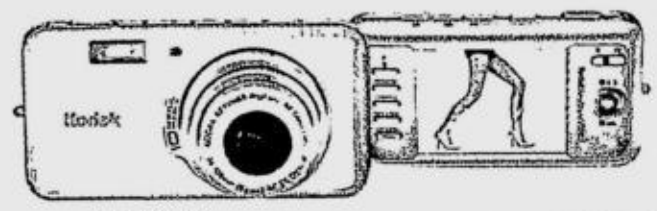

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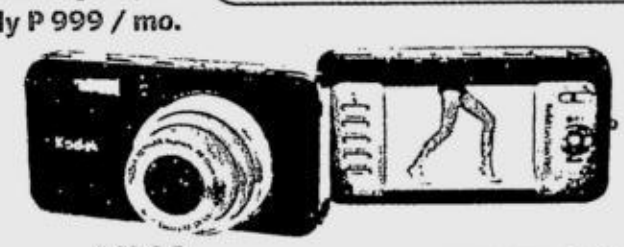

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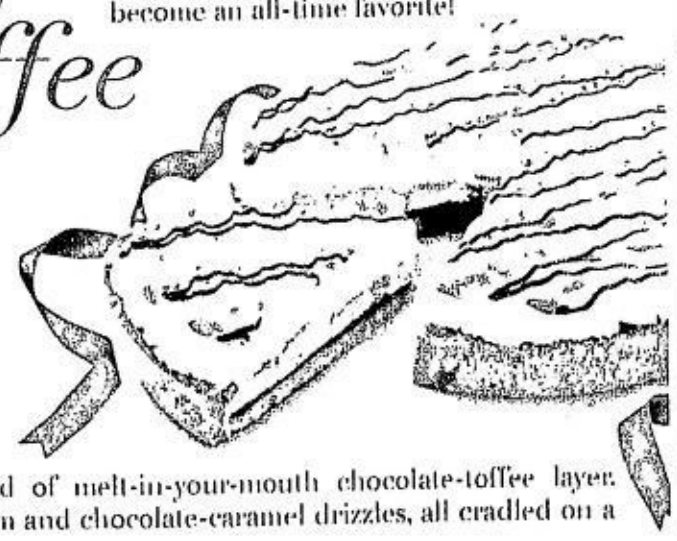

Red Ribbon Bakeshop brings delight to every celebration with the new Banoffee Pie. A delightful treat of fresh banana chunks and premium walnuts, nestled on a bed of melt-in-your-mouth chocolate-toffee layer. Topped with swirling cream and chocolate-caramel drizzles, all cradled on a delicious graham crust.

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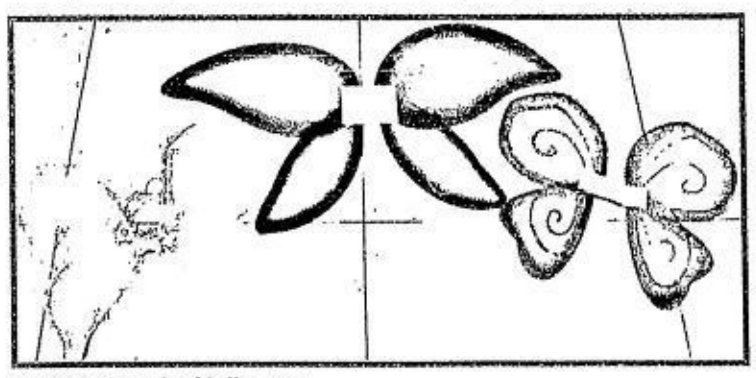
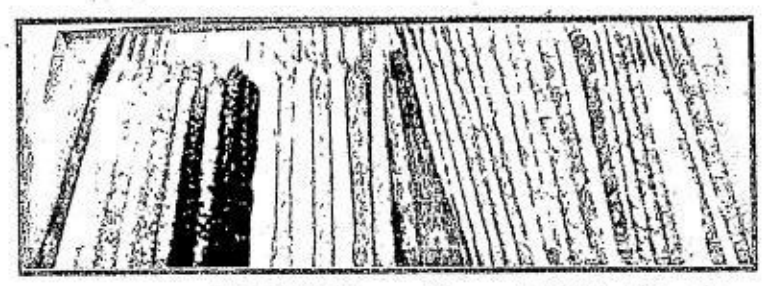
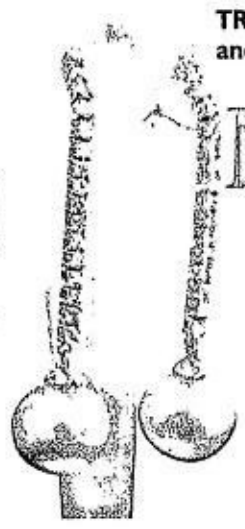


FAIRY wings for Halloween



TREASURE trove of imported fabrics (above) and South Sea pearl earrings (left)

ANGELO Estera's wedding gowns



Market days are here

From page E1

Product showcase

The ground floor, on the other hand, showcases cosmetics, menswear and accessories, jewelry, watches and fragrances. A display area for different promotions can also be found here. Until Oct. 31, members of the Fashion Institute of the Philippines will exhibit their works.

The ladies' wear section is on the second floor while the children's department, school supplies and toys can be found on the third floor.

The fourth floor showcases Christmas décor, home accessories, kitchenware and dining utensils, and imported linen and textiles.

Meanwhile, the fifth floor features fixtures and furniture from Cebu and China, appliances, musical instruments and gym equipment.

"The furniture and home accessories are Metro's bestsellers. We were even invited to decorate the sets of ABS-CBN shows like 'The Buzz,' 'Home Boy,' 'Sharon' and 'Breakfast,' said Dave Ramos, store visual artist.

The department store is open 11 a.m.-9 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. on weekends.

Anniversary promos

Incorporated in 1981, Metro Gaisano opened its first department store and supermarket the following year.

At present, it operates six department stores with supermarkets namely Metro Gaisano Colon, Supermetro Mandaue, Metro Ayala Center, Metro Legazpi, Metro Lucena and Metro Gaisano at Market! Market!.

"The Metro Gaisano chain of stores has increasingly built an image of quality and value for price in terms of the merchandise it sells. It enjoys the patronage of all types of customers," said Julie Montano, manager of Metro Gaisano at Market! Market!.

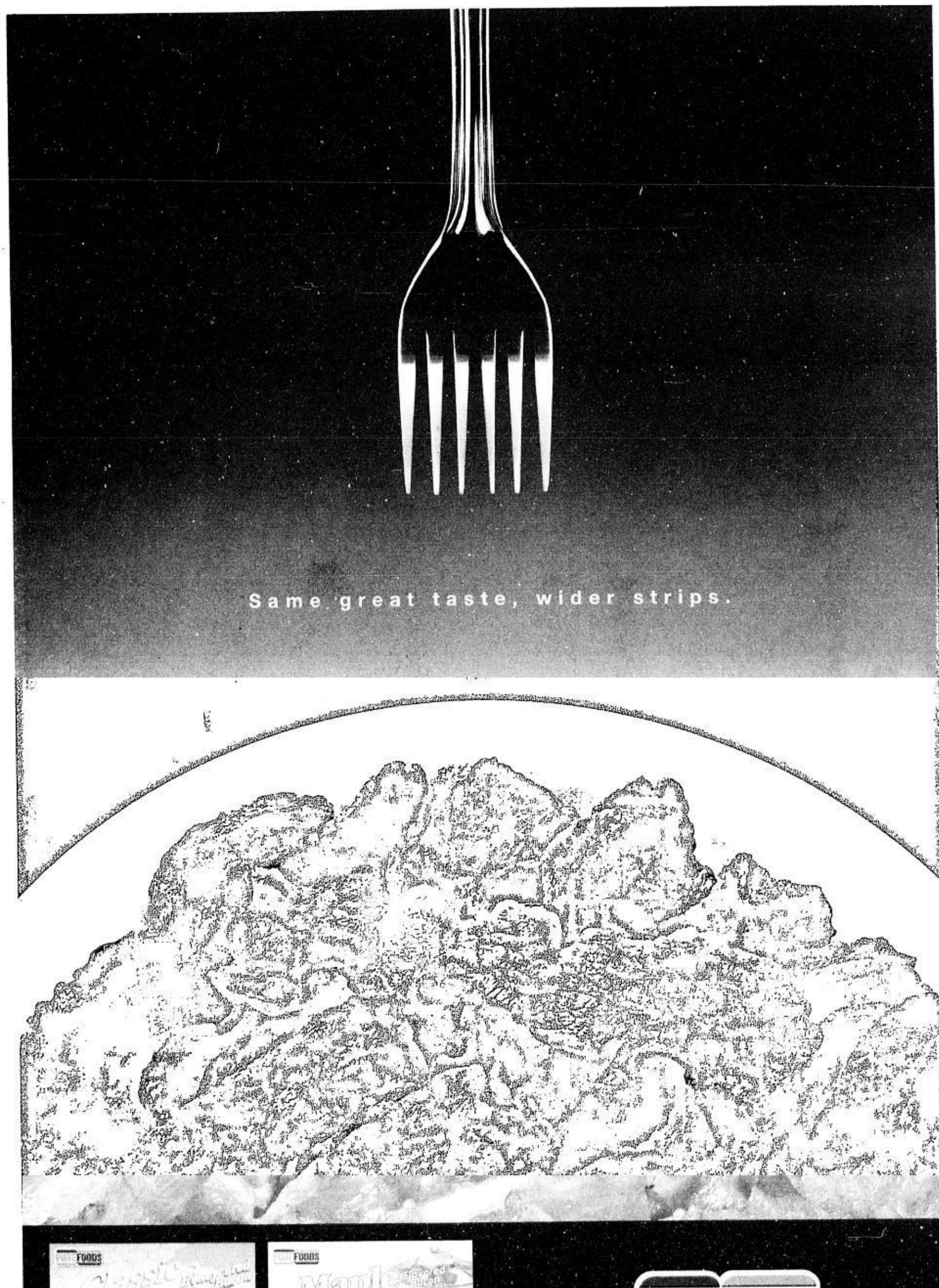
To mark its 25th year, Metro Gaisano's chain of stores holds promo activities the whole month of October.

Metro Gaisano at Market! Market! will give out P500 worth of gift certificates to the first 25 registrants who are celebrating their 25th birthday, wedding anniversary and 25-month-old baby on Oct. 1-31. Those whose employee's ID and cellular phone numbers end in 25 will also get the same gift.

Aside from these promos, the Metro Rewards Club has also been launched for customers to earn points from their purchases at the supermarket and department store. Free premium items will be given.

CELEBRATE Halloween in style.

CHRISTMAS at the Metro



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Paolo on 'Wilyonaryo' glitch: Come clean

PAOLO Bediones with co-host Rufa Mae Quinto

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

HAD THE "WILYONARYO" "MECHANICAL glitch" on "Wowowee" happened to him, TV host Paolo Bediones would've handled it differently, he says.

Paolo, who hosts GMA 7's new game show "Whammy" with Rufa Mae Quinto, tells INQUIRER Entertainment: "It's a very touchy subject because we don't really know what went on behind the scenes. But if we were at fault ... then [we'd] come clean. That's the only way to do it. Just tell the truth."

Paolo explains that he is not "judging" ABS-CBN's handling of the controversy. (To recap: "Wowowee" host Willie Revillame was seen holding two numbers, instead of one, in the show's "Wilyonaryo" segment. A word war between Willie and rival "Eat Bulaga" host Joey de Leon then ensued.)

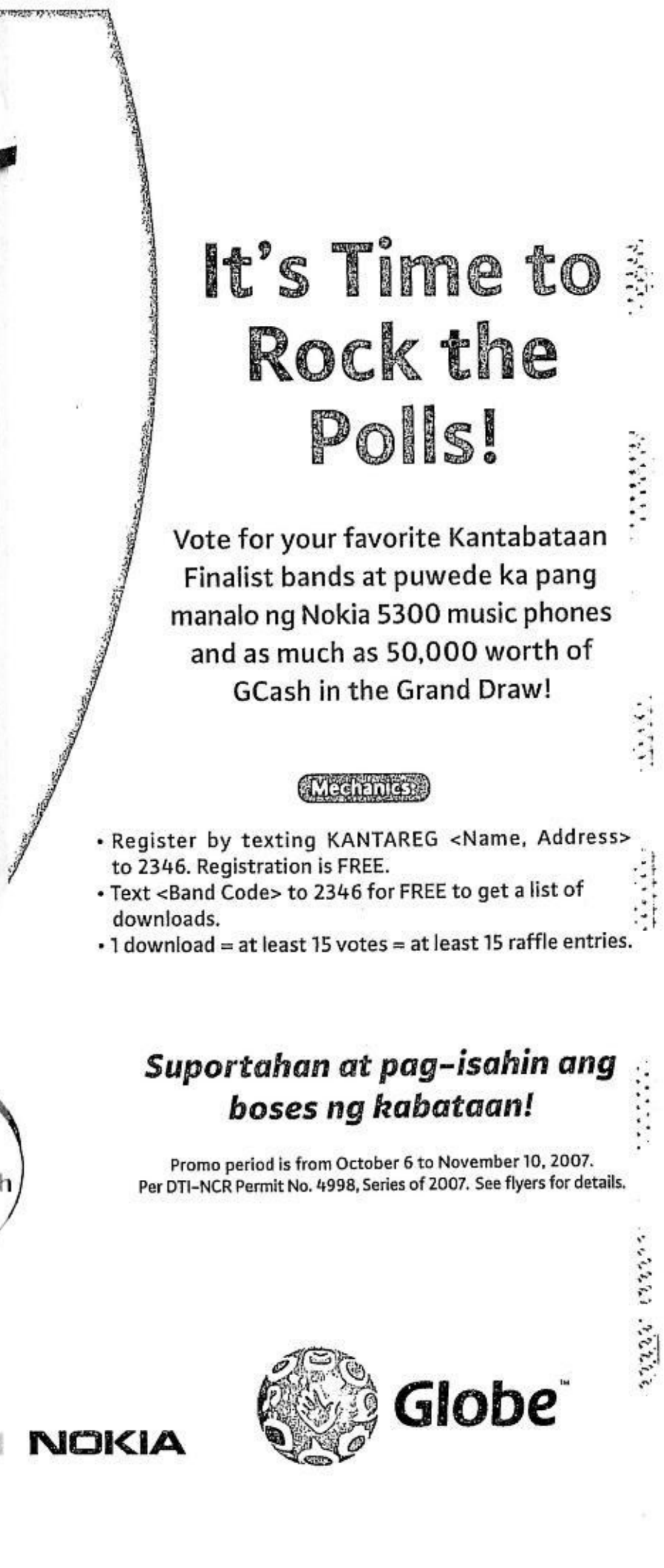
Responsibility

"I am not speculating whether [ABS-CBN] has told the truth or not," he clarifies. "All I know is that ... today's viewers are more discerning and intelligent, smarter than we give them credit for. That encourages us to raise the standards. That's our responsibility as media [practitioners]."

Since it's an original concept from the international company FremantleMedia (also, the "Idol" franchise holder), the "Whammy" system, says Paolo, was tested repeatedly. "We had a lot of technical rehearsals to study the system and to prevent problems."

There's no room for mistakes, he says, es-

PAOLO/ F2



MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
Gil. Puyat Ave. cor. Buendia Flyover, Makati City

1 (10:30)	DECEMBER BOYS
2 (10:30)	NO RESERVATIONS
3 (10:30)	AUSTRALIAN FILM FEST
4 (10:30)	WEDDING DAZE
PREMIERE	
(6:30)	EVENING RESIDENT EVIL - 3

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2	NO RESERVATIONS
3	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4	CHUCK & LARRY

stARmall
EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3	RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4 (10:30/12:30/2:30/4:30/6:30/8:30)	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5	

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 6433994

1	DON'T LOOK BACK
2	THE INVASION
3	RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

THEATRES
SM Pacific Mall Corporation
Telephone No. (044) 600 5000

1	SHOOT EM UP
2	THE BRAVE ONE
3	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

1 (10:30)	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 (10:30)	THE BRAVE ONE
3 (10:30)	RESERVED
4 (10:30)	RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (10:00)	CHUCK & LARRY
2 (10:00)	RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 (10:00)	DECEMBER BOYS/THE BRAVE ONE
4 (6:00 (12:00)	NO RESERVATIONS
5 (6:00 (10:30)	WEDDING DAZE
6 (6:00 (10:00)	SURF'S UP
7 (6:00 (10:30)	RESIDENT EVIL - 3
8 (7:00 (9:00)	1408
9 (7:00 (9:30)	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 (7:00 (9:30)	ROGUE ASSASSIN

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (10:30)	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 (10:30)	RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 (10:30)	RUGUE ASSASSIN
4 (10:30)	RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228

1 pm	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	RESERVED
4	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5	RESIDENT EVIL - 3

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	SKINWALKERS
2	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3	UNDERDOG
4	

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2	RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3	WEDDING DAZE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1	THE BRAVE ONE
2	I KNOW WHO KILL ME

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (10:30)	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2	HOST
3 (12:15)	BRATZ
4	I KNOW WHO KILL ME

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2	SHOOT EM UP

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.5563 or 72

1 (10:30)	EVENING / CHUCK & LARRY
2 (10:30)	RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 (10:30)	DECEMBER BOYS
4 (10:30)	WEDDING DAZE

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	I KNOW WHO KILL ME
2 (8:15)	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 (10:30)	ROGUE ASSASSIN
4	

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146

1	RESERVED
2 (10:30)	RESERVED
3 (7:15)	RESERVED
4	RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	SHOOT EM UP
2	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 (10:30)	ROGUE ASSASSIN

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	SHOOT EM UP
2	DON'T LOOK BACK
3 (10:30)	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 (7:15)	BLIND DATING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	THE BRAVE ONE / NANCY DREW
2	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 (10:30)	LAST LEGION

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1	RISE BLOOD HUNTER
2	I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1	PLEASE CALL
2	

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (10:00)	HOST
2	HAMOG SA BUKANG LIWAYWAY
3	MGA BABAE SA ISLA ASUL
4 (10:00)	BRATZ

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (10:30)	ROGUE ASSASSIN
2	HULING BERHEN
3 (7:15)	IVE FALLEN FOR YOU
4	MAHAROT
5	I KNOW WHO KILL ME

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	BRATZ
2	NANCY DREW
3	BALAT SIBUYAS
4	SHOOT EM UP

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	PLEASE CALL
2	

DID YOU KNOW...

LOS ANGELES—Yoko Ono will unveil the Imagine Peace Tower in Reykjavik, Iceland, on Oct. 9—on what would have been husband John Lennon's 67th birthday.

Lennon was shot and killed outside their New York City apartment by deranged fan Mark David Chapman on Dec. 8, 1980.

The Imagine Peace Tower is a stories-tall beam of light that will emanate from a wishing well bearing the words "imagine peace" in 24 languages. *AP*

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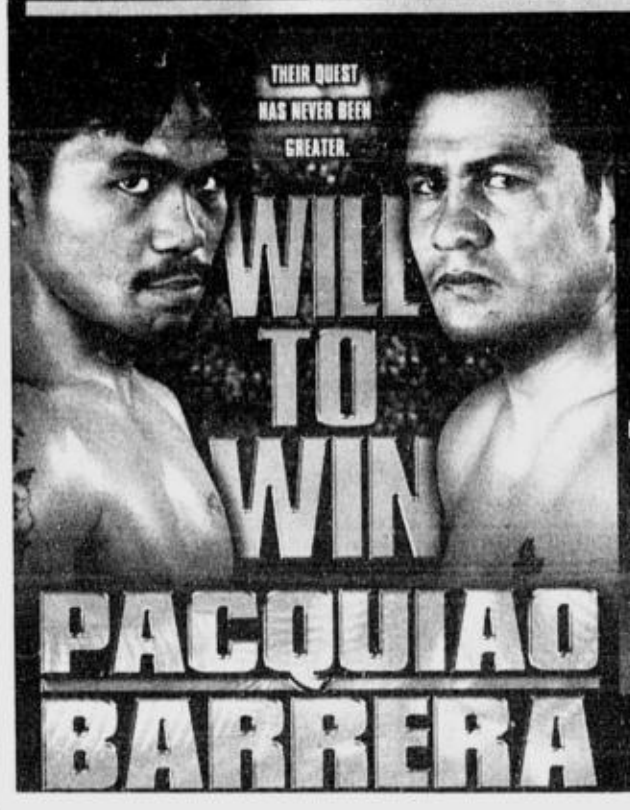

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3:00 PM
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2 NO RESERVATION
3 DECEMBER BOYS/THE WILL TO WIN
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN/THE WILL TO WIN
5 WEDDING DAZE/THE WILL TO WIN
6 THE WILL TO WIN/CARTOON NETWORK
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CINEMA 2
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SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 WEDDING DAZE/CARTOON NETWORK
2 EVENING
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 RESIDENT EVIL
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU/THE WILL TO WIN
6 RESIDENT EVIL/THE WILL TO WIN
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN/THE WILL TO WIN
8 WEDDING DAZE
9 DECEMBER BOYS
10 1408
11 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12 RUSH HOUR 3

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY/ THE WILL TO WIN
2 NO RESERVATIONS/THE WILL TO WIN
3 RESIDENT EVIL/THE WILL TO WIN
4 THE BRAVE ONE/THE WILL TO WIN
5 RESIDENT EVIL
6 THE WILL TO WIN/rush hour 3
7 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
8 WEDDING DAZE
9 THE WILL TO WIN/1408
10 THE WILL TO WIN/I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
11 DECEMBER BOYS
12 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 UNDERDOG
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 A LOVE STORY/THE WILL TO WIN
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 THE BRAVE ONE
6 SHOOT EM' UP
7 RESIDENT EVIL
8 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
9 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
10 THE WILL TO WIN/CARTOON NETWORK
11 WEDDING DAZE
12 1408

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 NO RESERVATION
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 UNDERDOG
7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
8 1408
9 SHOOT EM' UP/I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
10 THE WILL TO WIN/CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY/ THE WILL TO WIN
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 WEDDING DAZE
5 NO RESERVATION
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 DECEMBER BOYS
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 WEDDING DAZE
6 NO RESERVATION
7 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
8 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY/ THE WILL TO WIN
9 THE WILL TO WIN/CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 NO RESERVATION
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN/THE WILL TO WIN

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 WEDDING DAZE
3 DECEMBER BOYS
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 NO RESERVATION
6 RESIDENT EVIL
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
8 DISTURBIA
9 1408
10 RUSH HOUR 3
11 UNDERDOG/SHOOT EM' UP
12 THE WILL TO WIN/CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY BASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 DON'T LOOK BACK
4 THE HOST/THE WILL TO WIN

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 NO RESERVATION/THE WILL TO WIN
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 THE HOST

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 NO RESERVATION/THE WILL TO WIN
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 WEDDING DAZE
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 NO RESERVATIONS
5 DAYWATCH
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY/ THE WILL TO WIN
8 RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
4 THE WILL TO WIN/RUSH HOUR 3
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 SKINWALKERS

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 THE BRAVE ONE/THE WILL TO WIN
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 THE LAST LEGION

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN/THE WILL TO WIN
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 SINKING OF JAPAN
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY/ THE WILL TO WIN
6 THE BRAVE ONE

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 HAIRSPRAY/THE WILL TO WIN
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 BRATZ
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 NANCY DREW/THE WILL TO WIN
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 SKINWALKERS
2 BRATZ/THE WILL TO WIN
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 BRATZ
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 SHOOT EM' UP
4 NANCY DREW/THE WILL TO WIN

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 THE BRAVE ONE/THE WILL TO WIN
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 ZOMBIES

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 THE BRAVE ONE/THE WILL TO WIN
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 BRATZ

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 SKINWALKERS
2 BLIND DATING/THE WILL TO WIN
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 BRATZ
2 NANCY DREW
3 SKINWALKERS
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 THE WILL TO WIN
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
7 RESERVED
8 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 SINKING OF JAPAN
3 DAYWATCH
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
6 THE BRAVE ONE
7 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
8 THE WILL TO WIN/CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 THE LAST LEGION
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN/THE WILL TO WIN
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ENTERT

No one-two knoc

EARLIER THIS YEAR, WE FELT GRATified when new filmmaker **Topel Lee**'s feature, "Ouija," scored a hit at the box office. We then hoped that Lee's next movie, "My Kuya's Wedding," would be similarly successful. After viewing the follow-up film, however, we realized that a standout one-two cinematic punch would not be forthcoming for Lee.

The two films' showing reinforced the belief that Lee's forte is the paranormal chiller ("Ouija"), because he doesn't do as well with a romantic comedy like "My Kuya's Wedding."

We submit, however, that the less impressive showing of Lee's second feature can't be "blamed" on the filmmaker alone. The fact that the movie is reminiscent of "My Best Friend's Wedding" could have dampened some viewers' excitement about seeing it.

The film's story itself is also a problem. It's focus on a loving sister's desperate efforts to prevent her brother from marrying his fiancee is also a problem because her desperation sometimes sours up the movie's otherwise comedic, lighthearted tone.

We further submit that the movie's stars didn't measure up to it's "rom-com" format's standards. **Maja Salvador** was too lightweight and fey to continually sustain viewers' attention, let alone their delight.

As for **Ryan Agoncillo** as Maja's overly-beloved older brother, we observe that he doesn't really come off as a big-screen leading man because his facial features are sharp instead of harmonious. He is really best suited to strong character roles of the Pacino

Fashion course

THIS MONTH, JAY EMMANUEL IS back for the second season of "Style Her Famous" to give more average-looking women a chance to experience the luxury of Hollywood stars.

Together with his team of stylists, Jay will give women a crash course in hair, make-up, clothes and accessories that will surely make her feel and look like she's ready to walk the red carpet.

"Style Her Famous 2" airs every Wednesday, 10 to 10:30 p.m. on ETC.

Hairdresser search

The search is on for the next Ricky Reyes, with the celebrity hairdresser's "Hair Diva" reality show.

The top 11 finalists are Antonio Misamis, Reynaldo Villegas, Raquel Pangilagan, Antonio Agustin, Agusto Tadeo, Rommel Dobluis, Noel Muncada, Rogelio Librada, Eduardo Doblado, Manilyn dela Rosa and Dave Mandap.

All finalists are assured jobs from Ricky Reyes branches while the Hair

Paolo on 'Wilyor

From page F1

pecially since over half a million in cash and prizes are up for grabs.

It is precisely to avoid "mechanical glitches" that the "Whammy" system has been "fully automated and randomized," Paolo points out.

The contestants' fate depends on an electronic game board. "No pattern can be deciphered. It's really a game of chance. That's why it's also called 'Push Your Luck.'"

The host's "judgment call," however, is required in certain tricky situations. "Being a game show host is difficult. You have to be quick. In order to be quick, you must know the rules. And you can only achieve that by reading and understanding the manual," he says.

Presence of mind

Co-host Rufa Mae admits that that's the biggest challenge for her on "Whammy," which debuts tomorrow. "You can't make a mistake. You should always be alert. Presence of mind is important."

She says that she routinely asks for tips from Paolo who's a hosting "veteran" of five game shows.

"People will see a different Rufa Mae on this program. She's not just a comedienne, she can also be an authoritative game show master," he asserts.

"At the start, I was too serious, but the Fremantle consultant [Bob Cousins] told us that the show should be fun," she recalls.

In keeping with Rufa Mae's reinvention, she was "required" to wear more conservative costumes.

"Plunging necklines are not allowed. We don't want the contestants, and Paolo, to get distracted,"

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ckout punch for Topel Lee

EWFINDER

or U. Torre

filmmakers should devote greater time and care to crafting even a seemingly no-big-deal production like "My Kuya's Wedding." Well, maybe next time.

If there is a next time. The much stronger showing of "Ouija" may have made producers conclude that Lee is at his best when he's making thriller-chillers—so they could be offering him more of the same in the coming months.

For our part, we wish that Lee's choices won't be as limited. But, if other types of movies are offered to him, we trust that he will devote greater care to making them, to prove that he's much more than a one-note director, and is in fact one of the more promising new filmmaker to make his bid in recent years.

y.
ther problem surfaces midway e picture, when its central con- scalates. Maja's schemes to her *kuya's* wedding are not orig- nough, so the production's de- nd empathetic-enjoyment level

nedic vengeance plots are diffi- develop without coming off as avy and cynical to be funny, so

A Liz, Maja Salvador and Ryan Agoncillo in 'My Kuya's Wedding'

'Flushed Away'

Now on video (Magnavision Home Video) is "Flushed Away," a computer animated film about a pampered pet mouse named Roddy St. James, who thinks he's got it made.

It features the voices of Hugh Jackman (Roddy), Kate Winslet (Rita), Andy Serkis (Spike), Bill Nighy (Whitey), Jean Reno (Le Frog) and Ian McKellen (The Toad).

NOW ON DISC

'Perfect Stranger'

"Perfect Strangers," now available in VCD and DVD (Magnavision Home Studio), follows investigative reporter Rowena Price (Halle Berry) as she probes into the mystery of her friend's murder.

Learning that the murder might be connected to powerful ad executive Harrison Hill (Bruce Willis), she goes undercover with the help of her associate, Miles Hailey (Giovanni Ribisi).

'Alpha Dog'

Bruce Willis and Justin Timberlake are pitted against each other in the suspense movie "Alpha Dog," now available on video (Star Home Video).

The movie is about suburban drug dealer Johnny Truelove who kidnaps the 15-year-old brother of a man indebted to him. Three days and 38 witnesses later, the boy is dead.

Sharon Stone, Ben Foster, Shawn Hatosy, Anton Yelchin and Emile Hirsch also star.

'Dead People 2'

"Dead People 2," now on DVD (Star Home Video), is about strangers who get trapped at an eerie travel oasis in the desert.

They must unravel the mystery behind their visions of dying people while they are preyed upon by a decaying creature.

The movie stars Deven Gummersall, Derek Richardson, Tina Illman, Scott White, Arielle Kebbel, Michael Ironside and Eric Mabins.

'The Reaping'

After losing her husband and daughter in a tragic incident in Sudan, Katherine Walker (Hilary Swank) has turned her back on religion in favor of hard scientific fact in "The Reaping," now on video (Warner Home Video).

When a river turns red in the Louisiana swamplands, teacher Doug Blackwell (David Morrissey) seeks the help of Katherine and her partner Ben (Idris Elba).

The target of the witch-hunt is a 12-year-old girl (Anna Sophia Robb), whose life gets endangered.

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r will be given a parlor outlet.

's Chef'

former car thief or someone school with no qualifications heir own restaurant?

That is what Jamie Oliver wants to find out in his new series, "Jamie's Chef."

The series airs every Tuesay on Discovery Travel & Liv- this month, from 8 to 9 n.. Episodes encore every ay at 11 p.m.

artists

e tattoo artists at the hottest op in South Beach are back w season of the popular se- mi Ink."

month, Ami James, Chris Darren Brass, Chris Garver Harada work hard and play hile creating world-class tat- t are as intriguing as the ho get them.

ird season of airs every Sun- m. to 12 a.m., episodes encore ing Saturday at midnight.

haryo'...

KS now are more discerning."

chortling.
her neckline was too low, asked to secure her gown ry pins," he recounts.
however, insists that there's e'll get distracted by his co- ple assets. "I'm used to her. e guested on [his old reality ow] 'Extra Challenge,' she in a bikini."

xFM Presents... DECEMBER BOYS

92.3xFM and **Warner Bros. Pictures** presented the special preview of **December Boys** last October 1 at Glorietta 4 Cinema 1.

Based on the classic Michael Noonan novel, **December Boys** stars Daniel Radcliffe, Lee Cormie, James Fraser, Christian Byers, and Teresa Palmer.

The nostalgia-tinged melodrama tells the story of four orphan teenagers growing up behind the closed doors of a Catholic convent in outback Australia during the 1960s.

92.3xFM's special advance screening of **December Boys** was made possible by Pag-IBIG Fund, YSA Skin Care Center, Earle's Delicatessen, Globe Broadband, Clear Anti-Dandruff Shampoo, Fruit Magic and D' Original Jamaican Pattie Shop.

An ecstatic Iris Suason showing off the special prize she won from Globe Broadband

Spotted during the screening of the melodramatic popcorn fare were Carissa Gonzales-Ynion, Tinette da Costa, and Joey Ynion, Nico Gonzales, CK del Rosario

MTRCB PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

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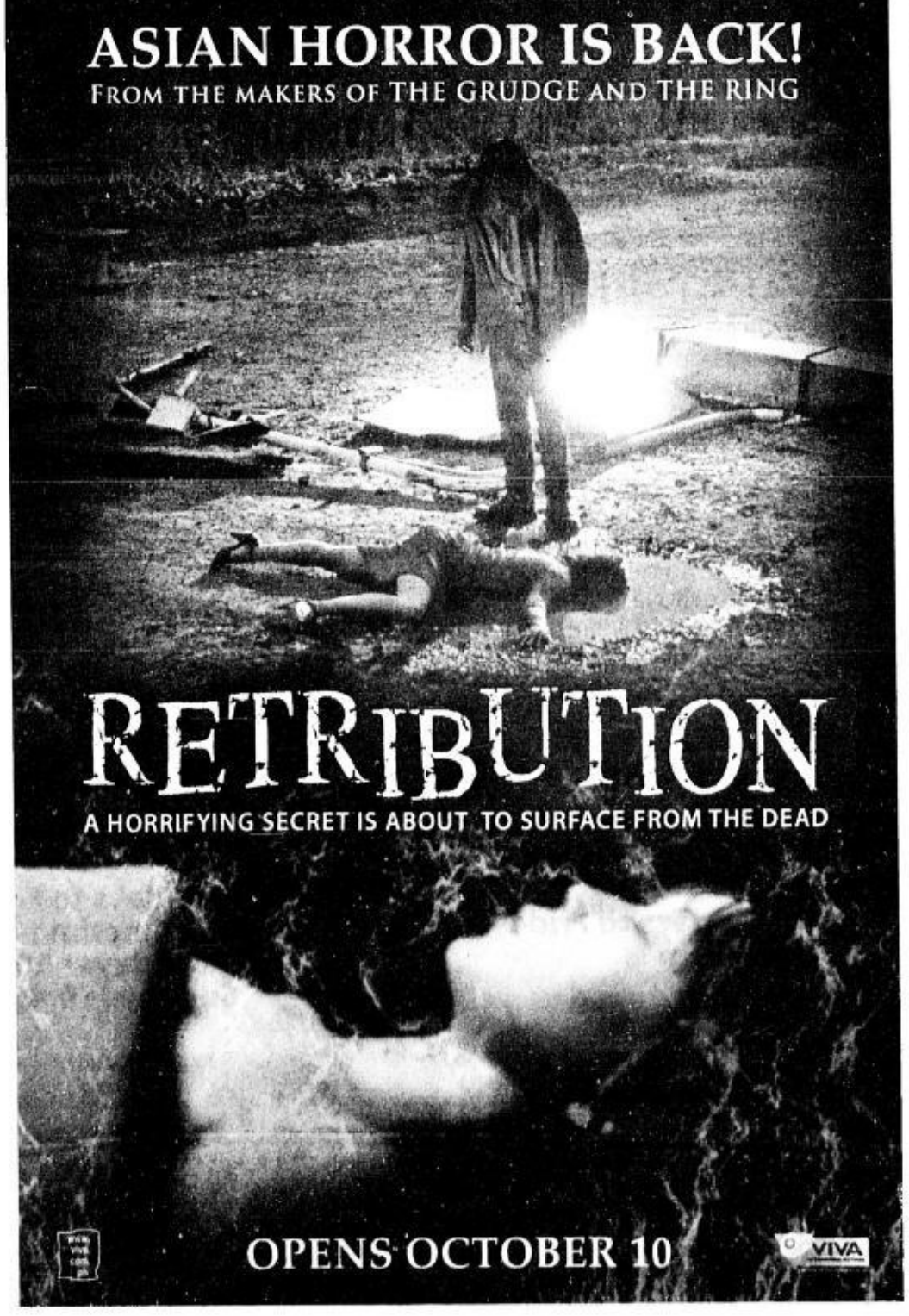

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OPENS OCTOBER 10 · VIVA

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Starring:
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11:30 am

Ang nangungunang kasayahan sa buong bansa.

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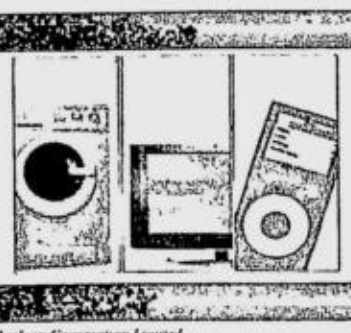

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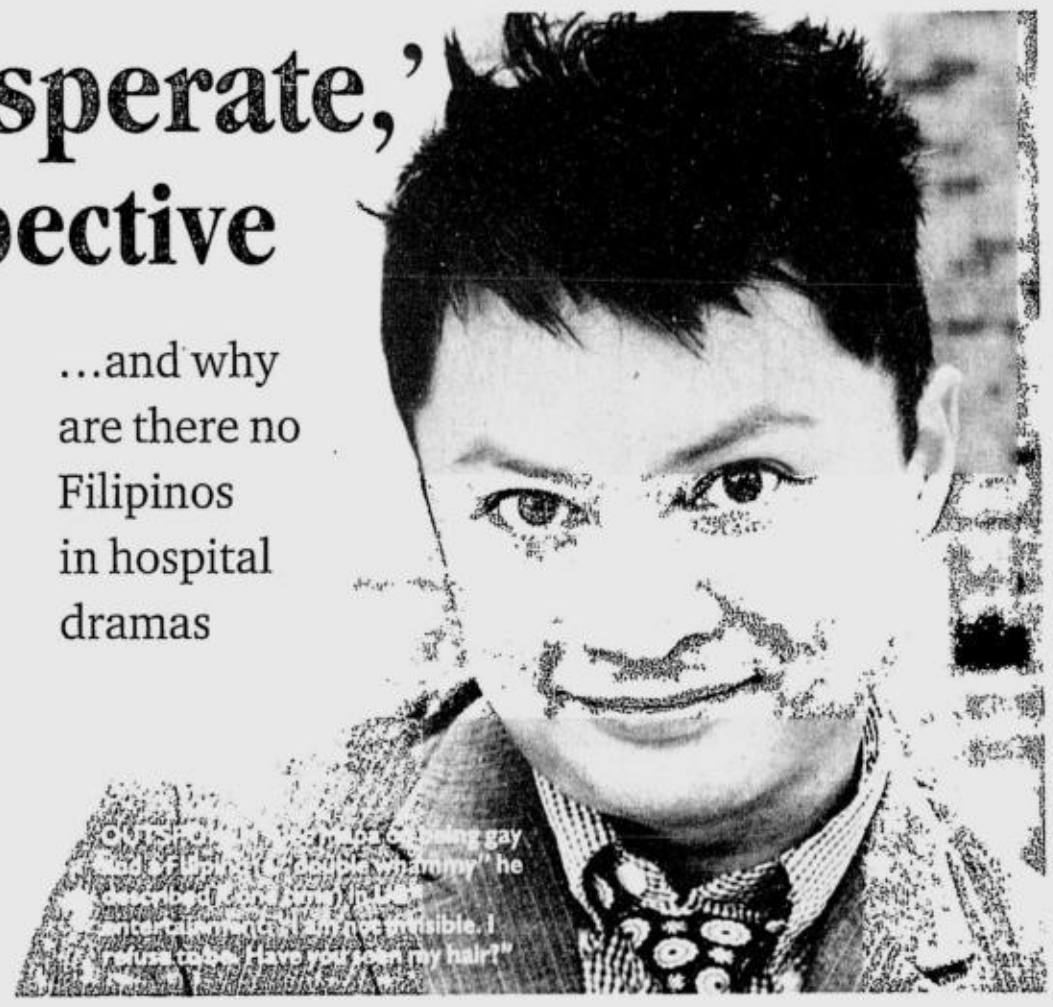
Alec Mapa, Vern on 'Desperate,' puts hot issue in Pinoy perspective



...and why are there no Filipinos in hospital dramas

LOS ANGELES—WHILE we are energized by the lively discussion, especially in cyberspace, of the "Desperate Housewives" issue, let us pose this question: Why are there no Filipino characters in hospital drama TV shows?

As we wrote in our blog, in many US hospitals, you can't turn a corner without bumping into a Filipino healthcare professional — doctor, nurse, therapist, nurse aide and so on. So have you, like me, wondered why there are no Pinoy characters in the main cast of these hospital drama shows? And to think there are dozens of these shows on American television.

It makes us think every time we see a new billboard or poster in LA announcing a new hospital drama. Where is the actor representing the ubiquitous Filipino doctor or nurse in the picture of the smiling cast dressed in scrubs?

The question reflects a larger issue. True, there are more actors (we're using the term to denote thespians of both sexes, as is fashionable these days) of Asian and other racial make-up working on American TV shows these days. But we are still a long way from seeing an accurate representation of the diversity of the US population on the small screen.

We asked **Alec Mapa**, one of the few Filipino-American actors able to find regular work in US television, some questions on this matter. In our column last Friday, we reported that Alec has a recurring guest role as Vern (best friend of Gabrielle, **Eva Longoria**'s character) on "Desperate Housewives." He shared his views on the whole brouhaha over the remark made by Teri Hatcher's character on Philippine medical schools.

Alec, whose other TV credits include "Ugly Betty" (he has a recurring role on this acclaimed series this season), "Some of My Best Friends" (he starred with **Jason Bateman**) and "Half & Half," also appears in films and stage plays. He is currently filming a movie with **Adam Sandler** titled "You Don't Mess with the Zohan."

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

He took over **B.D. Wong**'s Tony Award-winning title role in **David Henry Hwang**'s "M. Butterfly." Alec's hilarious recollection of being an understudy who is coveting that role, and of his funny, poignant memories of growing up Filipino and gay in San Francisco, made his one-man show, "I Remember Mapa" a memorable stage entertainment for us to this day. We hope a Manila impresario brings Alec to perform in the Philippines 'someday — he will make you laugh, cry and think, sometimes all at the same time.

Witty and eloquent, Alec champions causes supporting gay, lesbian and Asian-American communities.

The following are excerpts of Alec's replies, via e-mail, to our questions.

There are thousands of Filipino healthcare professionals (nurses, doctors, etc.) in US hospitals. Have you wondered why, amid this abundance of hospital drama shows, there is not one Filipino character in these shows?

I'm guessing that whoever writes and produces these shows hasn't been in a hospital lately. Because if they had, they'd know the ER has more Filipinos than Daly City. I blame the technical directors. There exists a team of experts on all of these medical shows, whose sole purpose is to recreate an accurate hospital environment. Apparently, they care more about showing a syringe accurately than they do about showing a nurse accurately.

Does this indicate how far we are from achieving a more realistic presentation of the racial diversity of the US population in TV shows in general?

It's an indication of who's in charge and who's making creative decisions. More Asians behind the scenes, more Asians in front of the camera. It's that simple. Nobody's going to hand it to us. No one. It's not enough for us to decry the lack of representation. We have to establish footholds in all creative sectors — writing, producing, directing, etc. We're far too resourceful and hardworking to be victims. Think about it. There aren't any filmmakers in the Philippines sitting trying to think of more employment opportunities for white people.

Does this also prove the belief that the Filipino-American population, despite numbering in the hundreds of thousands in the US, is almost an "invisible" race in the US because Filipinos easily integrate into mainstream American society?

I am not invisible. I refuse to be. Have you seen my hair? I've learned after 20 years in this business, that we aren't entitled to anything regardless of how many hands are stretched out. I know it's not the answer people want to hear. I was unemployed for years because all I did was complain that nobody got me. It wasn't until I got pro-active and started writing my own shows that all the mainstream opportunities manifested.

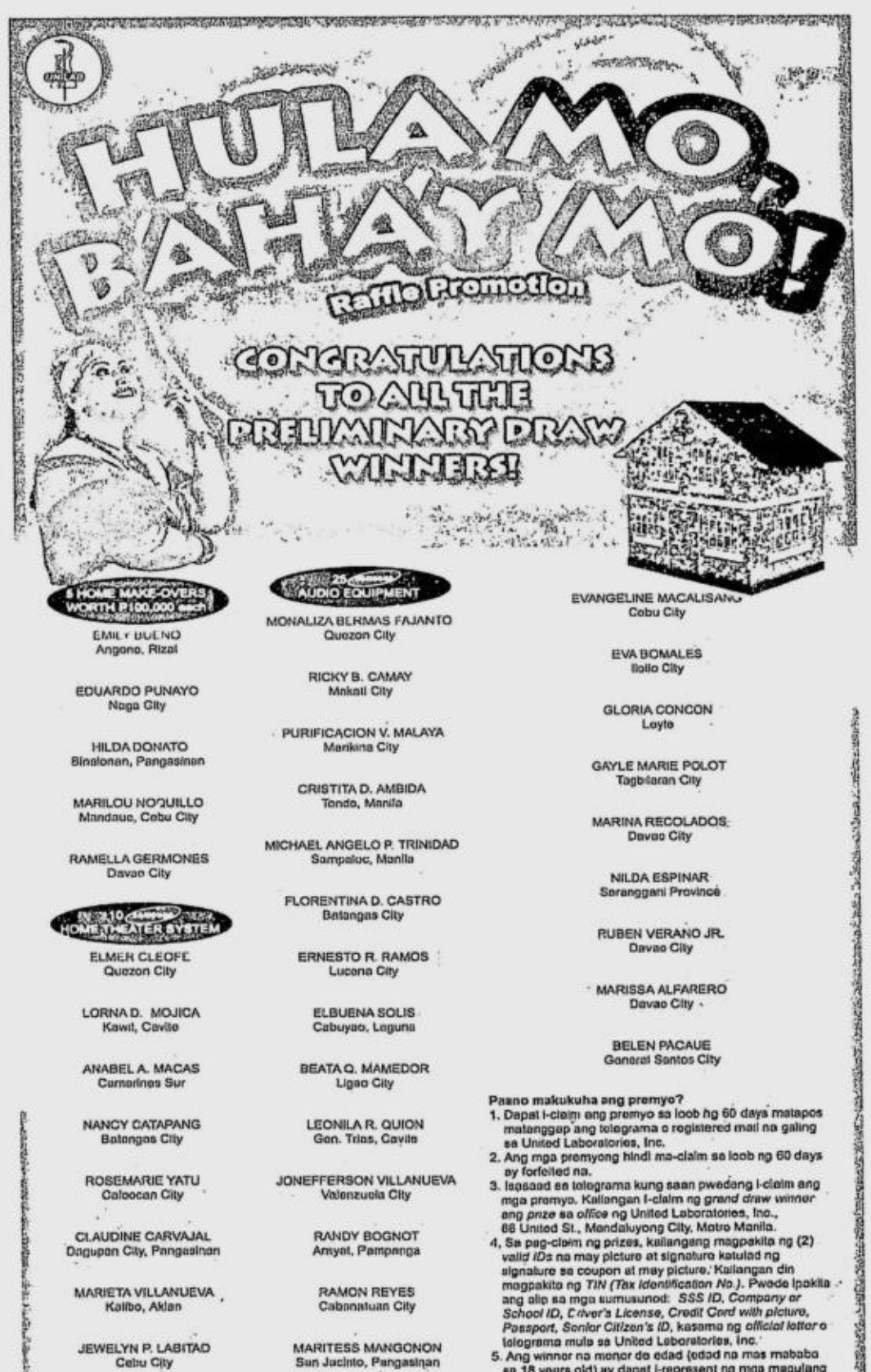
Do you think there should be more writers of various races working on American television so they will write more shows that reflect the true diversity of the American population?

"Grey's Anatomy" has a diverse cast because the show's creator, **Shonda Rhimes**, is an African-American woman who insisted on having a diverse cast. Can you imagine what that show would look like if a Filipina were in charge?

As one of the few Filipino-American actors able to work regularly on TV shows, what has been your experience like? How easy or tough can it be?

My suffering isn't greater or lesser than anyone else's. As a gay Filipino, I have a career that isn't even supposed to exist. I work because I

ALEC/ G2



DID YOU KNOW...

The week of Oct. 7-13 in Hollywood history:

1940: John Lennon was born in Liverpool, England.

1965: The Who recorded "My Generation" in London.

1977: Guitarist Steve Hackett left Genesis.

1980: AC/DC's "Back In Black" album went platinum.

1997: John Denver was killed when his experimental plane crashed into Monterey Bay in California. He was 53.

2003: Arnold Schwarzenegger was elected governor of California.

2006: Sara Evans quit "Dancing with the Stars" and filed for divorce from her husband of 13 years.

WHO WILL BE THE 2007
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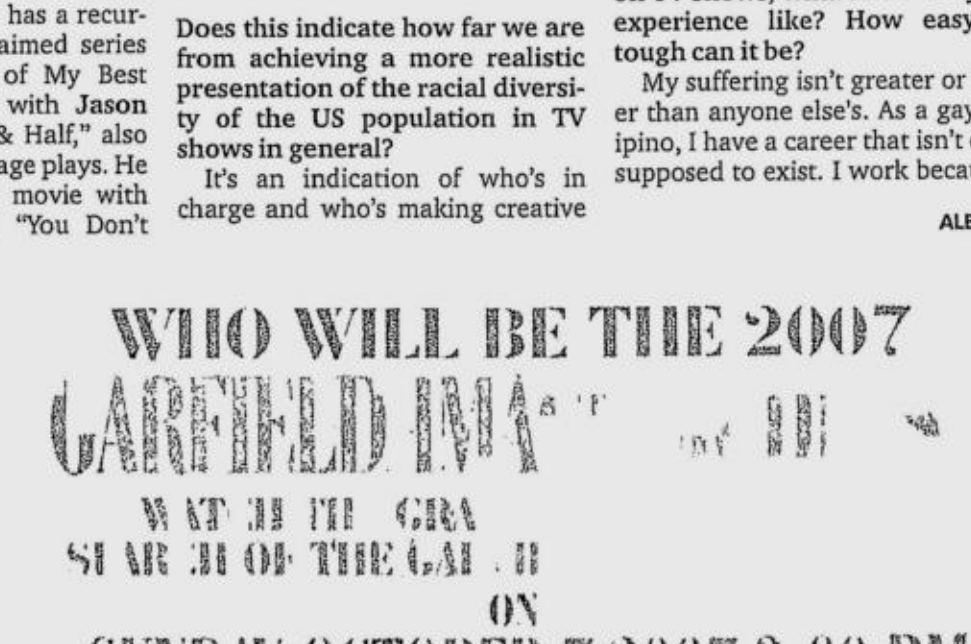

Alec Mapa, Vern on 'Desperate,' ...

From page G1

work my ass off.

Many Filipinos were outraged by the remark of Teri Hatcher's character on "Desperate Housewives." Was the remark a random case of poor judgment on the writers' part?

I would have to say yes, it was a random case of poor judgment. Writing for television is a game of Beat the Clock. These writers are constantly under the gun, time-wise. They're the hardest working people in the business and I know many of them personally. They're not bad people. Quite the opposite. They're hard working talented people who just let a stinker slip under the wire. Personally, I think political correctness is another form of censorship and a real comedy killer. If I had to constantly worry about offending people, my act would consist of knock-knock jokes.

And following up on that, can you put the furor that ensued from your perspective?

Culturally, Filipinos have an extraordinary amount of pride. We have enormous reserves of humor, but we don't react well if we feel we're being teased or belittled. I can't poke fun at my father. He goes nuts.

Do you think the controversy is good or bad in relation to your recurring guest job on the show? And to Fil-Am actors trying to make it on American TV in general?

I hardly think one line on a TV show will be the death knell for me or all of the Filipino actors on television.

Teri Hatcher is somehow caught in the controversy. Some have said that she should have refused to say that remark in the script.

Who are "some"? I doubt that it's anyone who actually works in television. Teri was doing her job. She's not a writer, producer or a network executive. It wasn't her call to make. Having said that, if it was something she felt strongly about, if she was an expert on all things "medically" Filipino, I'm sure she would have said something.

On a lighter note, do you think it's high time that we see a sitcom featuring a Fil-Am family? Name one or two situations that immediately come to your mind.

"Meet the Daquioags!" They're your average American family, only they're all Filipinos!

Episode number 1: The Daquioags invite their Caucasian next door neighbors over for dinner and hilarity ensues when the main course is *balut*!

"The Bionic Lola" — Discovered alive after being buried in a mudslide, Lola Cariño was turned by the Philippine government and all of the Philippines' best doctors into Manila's first bionic grandmother. She can peel 87 shrimps a second and attend Mass in seven different churches all at once.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

AHMAD Khan Mahmidzada, left, is the young Hassan and Zekiria Ebrahimi is the young Amir in the movie based on a bestselling book.

'Kite' poses risks to child actors

NEW YORK—THE RELEASE OF "THE Kite Runner" has been delayed six weeks because of fears for the safety of three of the movie's Afghan child actors, the film's distributor said Thursday.

As violence has escalated in Kabul, Afghanistan, concerns have mounted that the sexual nature of some scenes could prompt violence against the boys. In the film, based on the 2003 best-selling novel by Afghan-American writer Khaled Hosseini, the story's main character witnesses the rape of his friend but does nothing to stop it.

"The Kite Runner," originally scheduled to come out Nov. 2, will now be released Dec. 14 while Zakiria Ebrahimi, Ahmad Khan Mahmidzada and Ali Danish Bakhty Ari are removed from Kabul.

It is feared that when the film is released, pirated DVDs could spread in Kabul, where some could react violently to seeing such a rape scene. And there are concerns that the film will stir ethnic tensions for playing on stereotypes of Afghan ethnic groups.

Ahmad Khan is 12. Though the ages for Ali Danish and Zekiria were not immediately available, they are of a similar age.

"The kids have been offered to come to the United States and stay out of the country for an extended period of time," Megan Colligan, head of marketing at Paramount Vantage, told The Associated Press on Thursday. *AP*

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CINEMA 5 PACQUIAO VS. BARRERA // CHUCK & LARRY 8:00 // 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:35 R-13
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3 AUSTRALIAN FILM FEST MTRCB R-13, R-13, R-13, R-18 2:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:00
4 WEDDING DAZE MTRCB R-13 2:15, 4:35, 6:55, 9:15
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EVENING PG13 4:15,6:45,9:15	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY - R13 3:05,5:30,7:55,10:20	NO RESERVATIONS G 2:20,4:40,7:00,9:20

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GLORIETTA 4	1 NO RESERVATIONS	2 PACQUIAO VS. BARRERA/ CHUCK & LARRY	3 THX WEDDING DAZE GUARANTEED SEAT	
	4 DECEMBER BOYS	5 HARSH TIMES	6 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	7 EVENING
GREENBELT 1	1 DECEMBER BOYS		2 WEDDING DAZE	
GREENBELT 3	1 THX RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX PACQUIAO VS. BARRERA / SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 DECEMBER BOYS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 HARSH TIMES GUARANTEED SEATS	5 NO RESERVATIONS GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION		2 PACQUIAO VS. BARRERA / CHUCK & LARRY	
	3 WEDDING DAZE	4 DECEMBER BOYS	5 NO RESERVATIONS	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	2 DAYWATCH	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4 SINKING OF JAPAN
MARKET! MARKET!	1 PACQUIAO VS. BARRERA / WEDDING DAZE		2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	
	3 DECEMBER BOYS	4 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	
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glorietta — BPI Appliance Madness, September 26 to October 16 at Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT — Viva Mexico: A Traditional Mexican Costume Exhibit, October 8 to 15; Greenbelt 3 Lobby
ALABANG TOWN CENTER — Fitness At The Town, September 3 to December 14, 2007; Mon. / Wed. / Fri. - 6 PM; Town Plaza
AYALA CENTER CEBU — BPI Automadness Exhibit, October 11 to 14; Paseos
MARKET! MARKET! — Art In Denim: Jazz Up Your Levi's Contest, October 7; Activity Center
Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST, September 15 - October 7, 2007, For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM — HYBRIDITY: Mark Lewis Higgins, September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor, For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
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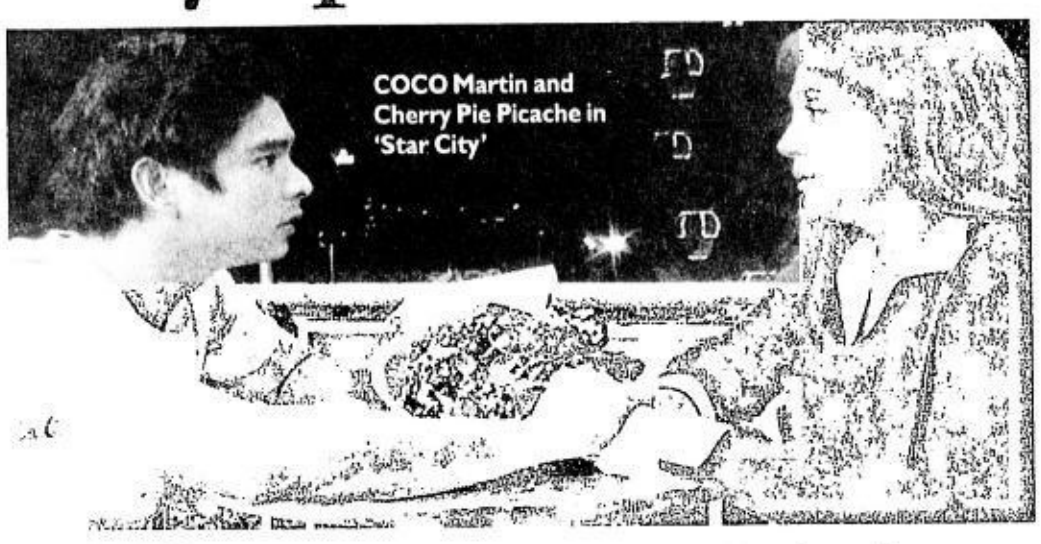
Why special screenings are better for indies



By Marinel R. Cruz

TO ENSURE A BIGGER RETURN ON INvestment, independent producers choose to organize special screenings for their films rather than hold week-long theater runs.

"If a film doesn't meet the box-office quota, it is pulled out of theaters. *Sayang lang.* If we hold special screenings, we are assured of a venue that's filled with viewers," explained Rahyan Carlos, director of the indie movie, "Pitong Tagpo."

The film by Creative Futures Inc. held a gala premiere last week. It will have two more special screenings this month—Oct. 12 at SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City and Oct. 27 at The Block, SM North Edsa, Quezon City. Another screening is set at the Trinoma in November.

Foreign audiences

"This is also why most indie films are made with the international market in mind. Only when a movie wins an award or gets good reviews abroad can it drum up sufficient interest here," said Carlos.

RHYAN Carlos

"Pitong Tagpo" is a compilation of seven short digital films that run from 18 to 20 minutes each, all shot in real time — that is, done in one long take. It is a first in Philippine filmmaking.

Carlos likes to call his work "experimental" drama. "I figured, if Alfred Hitchcock did it in 'The Rope' and Robert Altman in 'The Player,' a Filipino could do it too," he said.

Logistical nightmare

"Suka" is a story about a grandmother (Vangie Labalan) who talks to her granddaughter about giving herself to the man she loves; "Wedding Ring" deals with skeletons in the closet of a married couple (Jake Macapagal and LJ Moreno); "Dad" is about another couple (Robert Seña and Isay Alvarez) grappling with the past.

"Star City" tells of a young man (Coco Martin) who falls in love with a woman (Cherry Pie Picache) twice his age; "Ninoy" is about a waiter and street kid (Diether Ocampo) who matures in the school of hard knocks; "Mariel" tells the story of a single mother (Maybelyn dela Cruz); "Toga" is about an overseas Filipino worker (Bembol Roco) trying to make up for lost time with his granddaughter.

Carlos said it took him six days to finish the film. "'Ninoy' was the hardest episode," Carlos recounted. "We shot it at the Wawa Dam in Montalban, Rizal. We did six retakes. 'Star City' was a logistical nightmare. It was shot inside the carnival, where the crowd was difficult to control. We hired 15 crowd control personnel."

> 'If Altman, Hitchcock could do it, so could a Filipino filmmaker'

Regal start

Carlos graduated from the University of the Philippines with a degree in Malikhaing Pagsusulat sa Filipino (Creative Writing). At 18, he wrote his first script for Regal Entertainment's "Mother Studio Presents." He then worked for GMA 7's "Campus Romance" and, later, for several children shows in ABS-CBN.

He said it was his late uncle, director Chaning Carlos, who persuaded him to dabble in filmmaking. In the late '90s, Chaning asked Rahyan to be his assistant director for a tele-movie top-billed by Manilyn Reynes. "My uncle died without finishing the project. I was forced to continue his work. Since then, I've been hooked."

In November 2002, Carlos megged the digital film "Oscar," the lone Philippine entry to a film festival for the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial.

Until two years ago, Carlos was the development head of GMA 7's Artist Center, in-charge of conducting workshops for Kapuso artists.

ROUNDUP

Pinoy Media Congress

ABS-CBN BROADCASTING CORPORAtion and Studio 23, in partnership with the Philippine Association of Communication Educators (Pace), will hold the Pinoy Media Congress (PMC)—Year 3.

The first phase will cover the Luzon and National Capital Region universities and colleges and will be staged on Oct. 16-17 at the Far Eastern University (FEU), Manila.

The second will cover the Visayas and Mindanao schools, and will be done on Nov. 8-9 at the Claire Isabel McGill Luce Auditorium, Silliman University, Dumaguete City.

Pace is an organization of communication arts teachers and institutions offering degrees in communication, broadcasting, journalism, advertising and communication research.

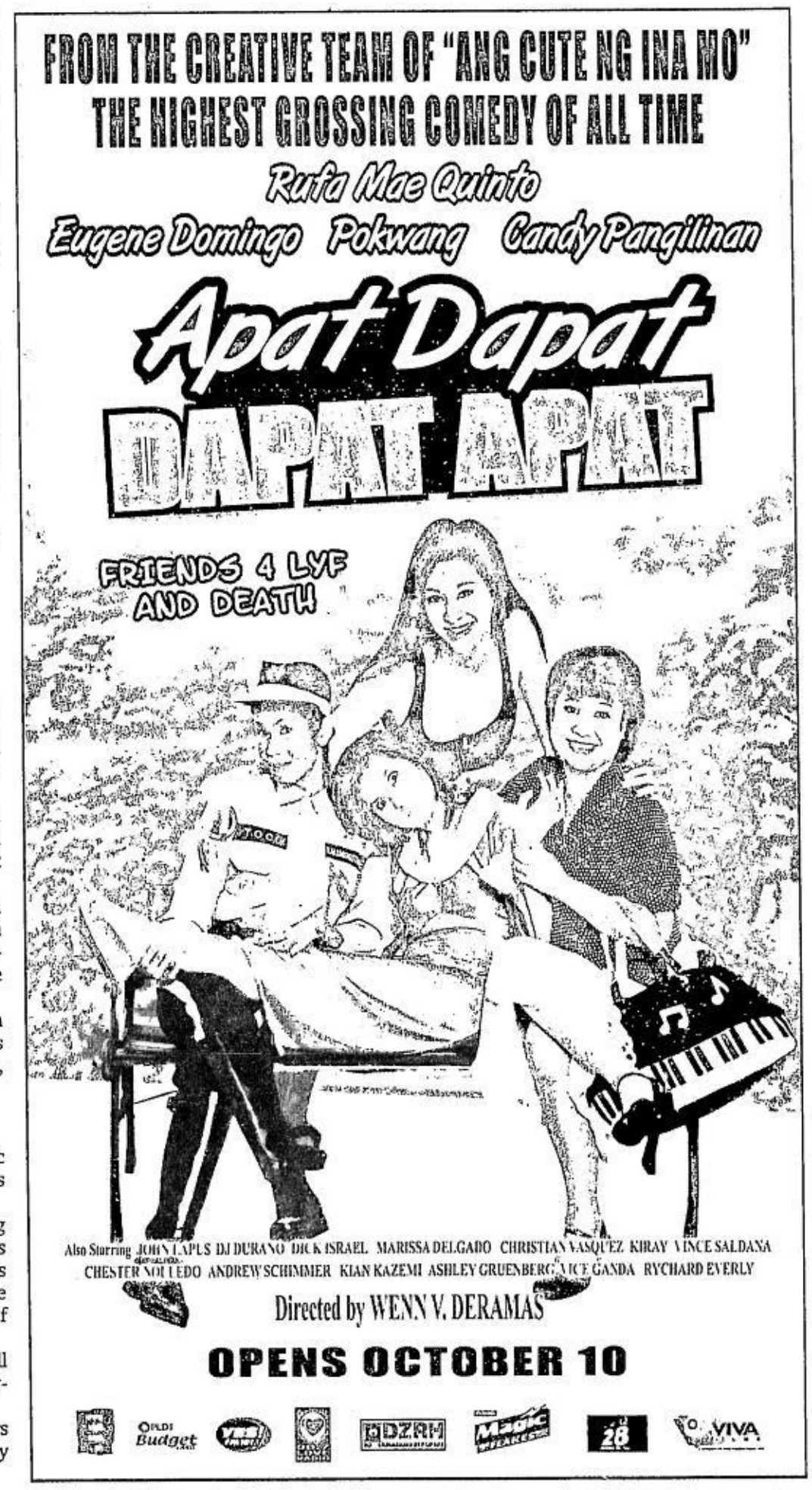
'The Seeker' screening

The invitational press screening of the epic adventure "The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising" is set on Oct. 11 at Glorietta 4 cinema.

Based on the Newbery award-winning book sequence by Susan Cooper, the movie is about Will Stanton, a young man who learns he is the last of a group of warriors who have dedicated their lives to fighting the forces of the Dark.

Traveling back and forth through time, Will discovers clues which lead him into a showdown with forces of unimaginable power.

The movie opens Oct. 17 in local theaters from 20th Century Fox to be distributed by Warner Bros.



Ai-Ai is happy she's still a Kapamilya

Marinel R. Cruz

COMEDIAN AI-AI DE LAS ALAS INSISTS she is pleased with her decision to stay with ABS-CBN, even if her new contract is not exactly better than the previous one.

Ai-Ai recently inked an exclusive talent management deal that requires her to appear in three television shows in two years.

Full sked

She's set to play the lead role in the TV version of her hit movie "Volta." She will also be in a soap series top-billed by Maricel Soriano, Kim Chiu and Gerald Anderson, and in a sitcom with Judy Ann Santos.

"It's almost the same," Ai-Ai replied when entertainment reporters asked about the new deal. "A talk with Tita Cory (Vidanes, ABS-CBN vice president for television production) convinced me to accept the offer. My heart melted when she said, 'Don't leave us.' *Sino lang ba ako?* I owe this network a lot."

After months of inactivity on TV, the comedian announced in August that she was moving to rival station GMA 7. Ai-Ai later retracted this.

"I went to Tita Cory's office to say goodbye. *Wala talaga akong balak magpapigil.* After all, the only thing needed to formalize my transfer to GMA 7 was my signature on the contract," Ai-Ai said at the press conference for Neo-Kiddielets, a children's medicine brand that she endorses.

Ai-Ai said she was supposed to host a late-morning game show on the Kapuso channel to compete head-on with "Kapamilya Game KNB?", hosted by her friend, Edu Manzano.

A new venture

"To be honest, I wasn't really just sitting idly at home during the times I wasn't visible on TV," confessed Ai-Ai. "I was occupied with shows abroad, with school and my new restaurant."

The single mother of three recently took up classes at the Center for Culinary Arts (CCA) in Quezon City. And last week, she opened a small restaurant which she named Ai Sarap, in Manila. "It's my new baby," she said, beaming. "When I'm not busy doing other things, I stay there and help out—washing the dishes, wiping the tables. You'd be amazed how many people go there to eat."

Dramatic role

Ai-Ai added that a branch is already being built in Pasig City. "I hope to have 20 branches in one year," she declared.

In January next year, Ai-Ai will also have her first foray into drama when she teams up with award-winning independent filmmaker Brillante "Dante" Mendoza ("Kaleldo," "Manoro" and "Foster Child").

"I'm very excited. Doing an indie film is something different," she said. She is playing a battered wife in the film. "I don't care about the money. *Ang mahalaga, makaarte naman ako ng may kabuluhan.*"

SHE HAS a lot on her plate now, including a restaurant

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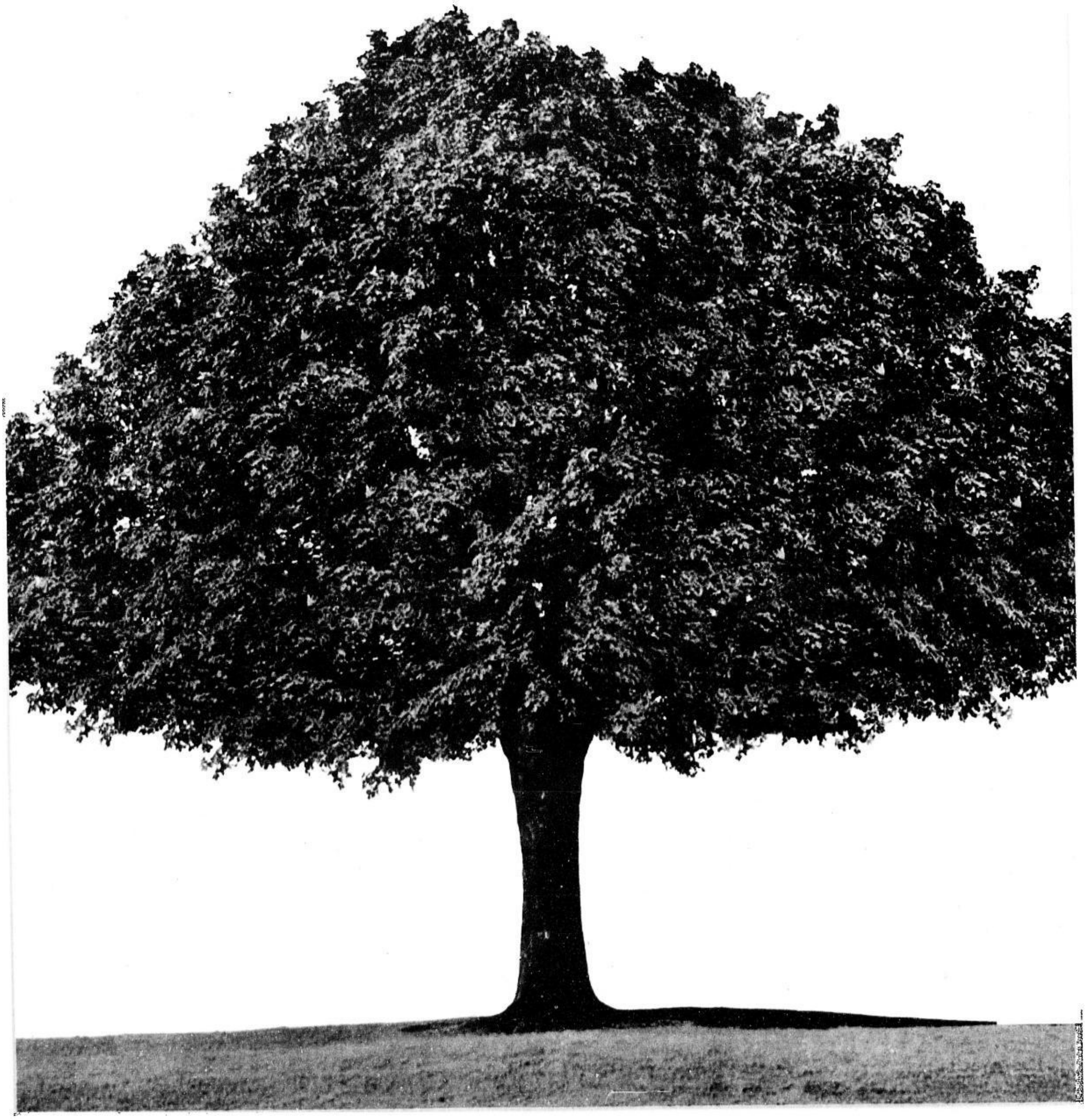
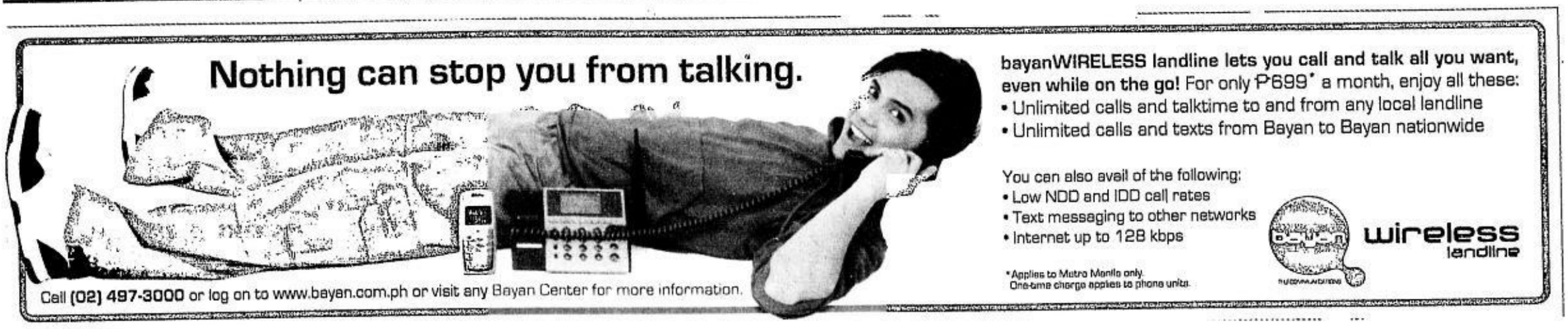




The singer regrets he wasn't able to give their relationship his full attention and is now hoping for a reconciliation

Erik: I still love Rufa Mae

By Marinel R. Cruz

SINGER ERIK SANTOS ADMITTED HE'S STILL HOPING to reconcile with his ex-girlfriend, sexy comedian Rufa Mae Quinto.

"I still love her and I know she still feels the same for me," Erik told a group of entertainment writers before he flew to the United States for a series of shows. He is expected to arrive in Manila this week to promote "Solo at the Coliseum" on Oct. 19, his first solo concert at the Big Dome.

Erik said that among other things, it was their busy schedules that drew him and Rufa Mae apart.

"We weren't able to give the relationship our full attention," he explained. "Whenever we had misunderstandings, we never discussed them because we were too busy with other things. We just let them slip. We let them accumulate until we had a really big fight and decided to call it quits. We realized that we needed to break up to preserve whatever friendship we still have."

Erik said he still hangs out with Rufa Mae when time permits, "although we're careful not to call these meetings dates."

He added: "I don't want to rush things. Right now, we're okay. We're good friends. We're enjoying each other's company."

This wasn't the case a few months ago when Erik said he had to fight off depression caused by the breakup.

"There was even a time when I had so much trouble sleeping that I had to pop pills. I didn't want to take them, but I needed to rest my body so I'd do well on my show the following day," he said. "You see, keeping yourself busy sort of numbs the pain. But at the end of the day, when you go home and realize that you're alone, you feel empty."

Erik said he was thankful that his friends and family were there. "I got to appreciate them more during those difficult times," the singer shared.

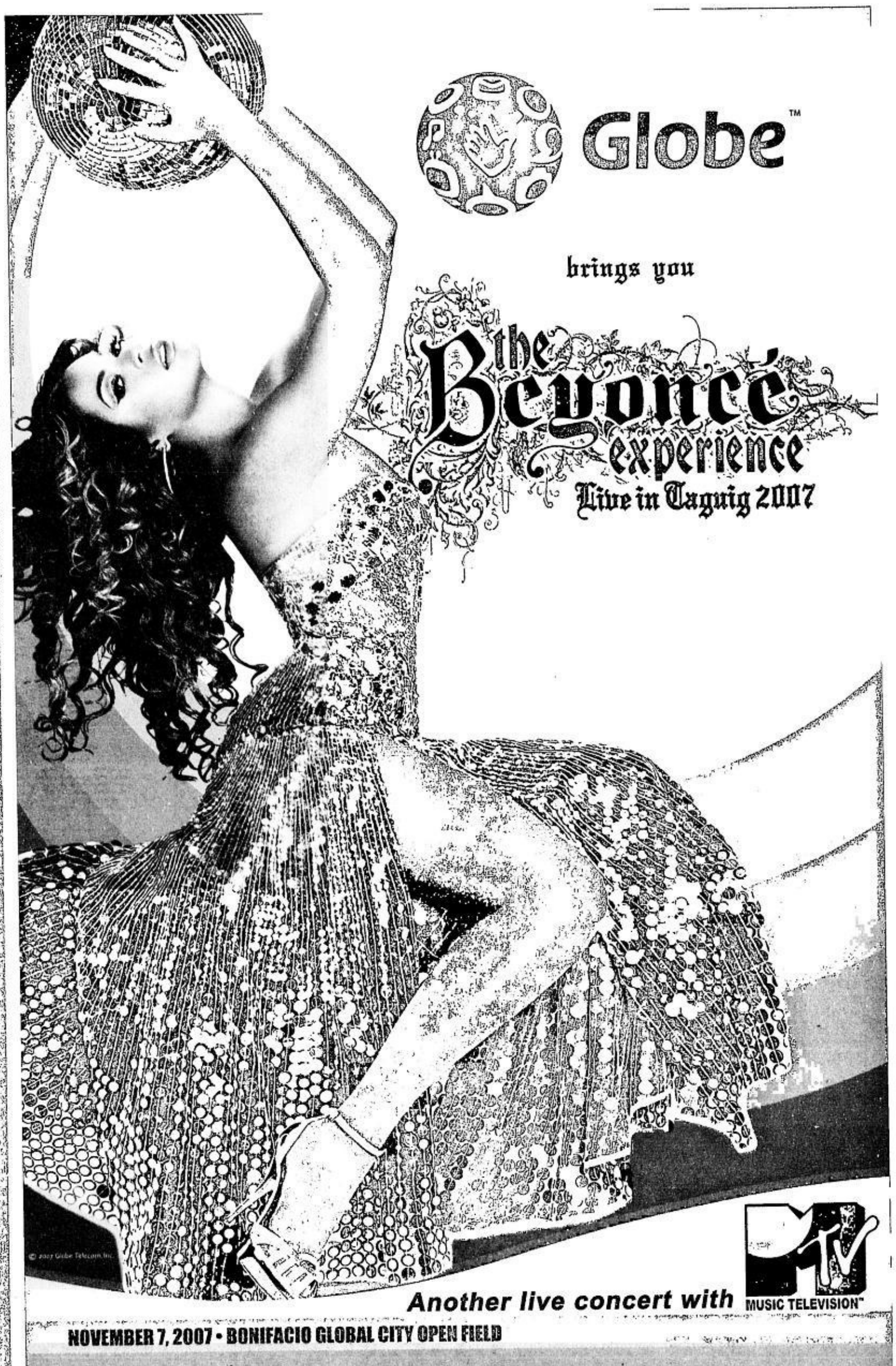
What do you miss most about Rufa Mae? How's she like as a girlfriend?

I miss the fun times we shared. We laughed at just about anything. She's sweet, kind-hearted, thoughtful and generous.

She's five years older than me. I learned a lot from her, especially about how to deal with other people. She taught me that if one has nothing good to say about another person, it's better to not say anything at all.

Are you prepared for the time when Rufa Mae finally tells you she has found somebody new?

ERIK/ H2



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3 EVENING
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8 indieSine: TUKSO
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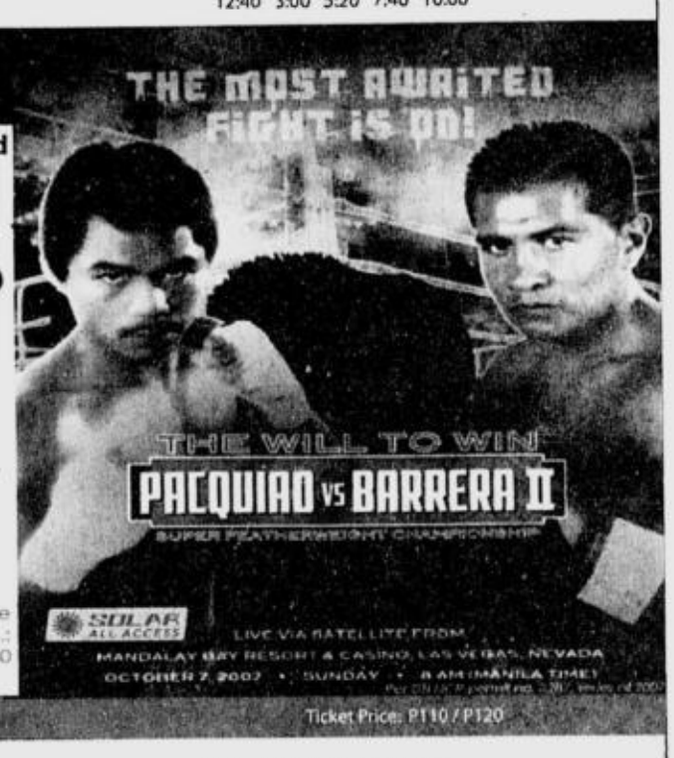

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'EVENING'

An esteemed cast just wasted

A HIGHLY ESTEEMED GROUP OF ACTRESSes including Vanessa Redgrave, Meryl Streep, Glenn Close, Toni Collette and Natasha Richardson comes together for a pretentious, pile of goo in "Evening," based on Susan Minot's book.

Michael Cunningham, author of "The Hours," helped Minot adapt the screenplay and infuses it with the same sense of self-importance. But what we're looking at is a highbrow chick flick that's beautifully shot. (Hungarian director Lajos Koltai is an Oscar-nominated, veteran cinematographer.)

Redgrave stars as Ann, a woman on her deathbed, recalling the one who got away 50 years earlier. Her grown children, Nina and Constance (Collette and Richardson, Redgrave's real-life daughter), listen to her half-coherent rants, looking perplexed. Constance is married with two children, Nina is defiantly single, and each feels superior to the other.

In flashbacks, Claire Danes plays young Ann, an aspiring singer visiting Newport, Rhode Island, for the society wedding of her college best friend, Lila (Streep's daughter, Mamie Gummer, and the resemblance is startling). Their pals have names like Peach and Pip, the lawn is lushly green and the ocean deeply blue, and everyone looks as if they've just stepped out of a J. Crew catalog.

Lila is nervous—she's secretly in love with Harris (Patrick Wilson), son of the family's longtime housekeeper, who's now a doctor. Ann meets Harris and also quickly falls for him. And why not? Wilson, the generically handsome "Little Children" star, has made a career out of playing the prom king.

Mostly annoying

Competing for Ann's attention is Lila's younger brother, Buddy, played by Hugh Dancy, who gets some volatile drunken moments but mostly annoys.

Koltai jumps jarringly back and forth in time, sometimes too quickly, sometimes letting scenes play too long. Individual moments strike a chord, namely the one toward the end when Streep arrives as *deus ex machina*, playing an older version of Lila in a clever bit of casting. Seeing her and Redgrave provides a bit of a rush.

But mostly "Evening" feels draggy and

CLAIRE Danes

repetitive. During a
Angeles, a man in th
loud yawn during a
tionally crucial mo
burst out laughin
thoughts exactly."

REVIEW

'ANINO NG SETYEMBRE'

No Sadako here, but it's scary

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

IT'S FAR FROM ORIGINAL, BUT "ANINO NG Setyembre" manages to concoct a series of spooky imagery despite its humdrum, surprise-free trappings. It's also far from perfect; you just know when the apparitions will come and why. But it still able to convey a sense of dread.

Some Asian horror films in recent years have bombarded the region with culturally distinct folk tales, and most are poor reflections of the better ones. Still, those tapped into something universal and familiar, while acquainting the viewer with customs or historical details unique to their areas of origin.

Restless spirits

"Anino," directed by Briccio Santos, ties itself to the country's Martial Law era or, more specifically, to the atrocities committed during the time.

Because the story involves restless spirits, it's easy to pinpoint the motivations of a barong-clad apparition that consistently manifests itself to real estate agent Sarah Flores (Alessandra de Rossi). Sarah, a balikbayan with acute psychic senses, tells people of her eerie sightings, but people don't believe her, that's right, it's way too late. Only Ben (Luis Alandy), a new friend, believes her.

Again, we've all seen a horror movie or three about vengeful otherworldly beings with sordid secrets to share. Almost always, they're after justice, and may have some ties to the living protagonist.

"Anino" replicates that tried and tested formula and gives away answers in quick flashbacks or foreshadowing bits, so there really aren't any real mysteries to solve anymore. It's interesting to see, however, how the scattered clues and detailed recounting of particular events connect.

As far as narrative smoothness is concerned, it isn't always coherent. The script has gaps. Supporting characters sometimes talk about crucial parts that weren't previously shown. It does make one wonder: Did Sarah say some important things off-screen?

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ROUGE ASSASSIN 12:15 R3 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:45
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Erik: I sti

From page H1

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"Solo at the Coliseum" is
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formers are Ai-Ai delas Alas
Yeng Constantino, Danita
Dancers.

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nent. The whole place
—as if to say, "Our
Christy Lemire, AP

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directed by Bobby Garcia,
al director. Erik's guest per-
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Paner and the G Force

Download this album for free

FIVE FILIPINO BANDS AND ARTISTS COMposed and performed all-original songs in the free "Thank You Day Commemorative Album."

The collection, produced by Swiss chocolate brand Toblerone, features songs of gratitude such as "Sweetest Thank You" (True Faith), "Tempestuous Tempers" (Cynthia Alexander), "Gratefully Sweet" (Salindiwa), "Purple-Colored Skies" (Mozzie) and "Let's Get Together" (Reggae Mistress).

The album may be downloaded for at www.thankyoudayphilippines.com.

SPIN

Durias' solo album

Former South Border leader/keyboardist Jay Durias has a solo album out called "Songs I Grew Up With" (Star Records).

In the CD liner notes, Durias writes that "Light and Shade" (Fra Lippo Lippi), "Him" (Rupert Holmes), "Reward" (Basia), "Birthday Song" (Don McLean), "You Can Do Magic" (America), "My Cherie Amour" (Stevie Wonder) and "I'll Have To Say I Love You in a Song" (Jim Croce), among others, were the songs that he listened to as a kid and made him laugh and cry, as well as molded him as a musician.

DIANA Krall

The album also contains a newly written original track, "Sa Hangin."

Krall's very best

"The Very Best of Diana Krall," the first career restrospective of the Grammy award-winning artist's music, has been released on Verve Records (MCA).

It features selections from six albums of the multi-platinum vocalist's extensive repertoire.

Dylan's 'message'

LOS ANGELES—Bob Dylan is back "on the pavement, thinkin' about the government," and he has a special message for you.

Dylan's Columbia Records label is promoting his upcoming greatest-hits collection with an Internet chain letter that mixes personalized greetings delivered by the rock bard with links to his Web site and an online purchase form.

The viral marketing campaign features a clip from the famed

"Subterranean Homesick Blues" music video showing a young Dylan standing in an alley as he flips through cue cards printed with selected words from the song's lyrics (www.dylanmessaging.com/watch).

In the version circulating on the Internet, recipients can put their own words on the cue cards and ship the altered video back to the sender or other people. It also contains links to the official album website, www.dylan07.com, and various online promotional materials. *Reuters*

Name your price

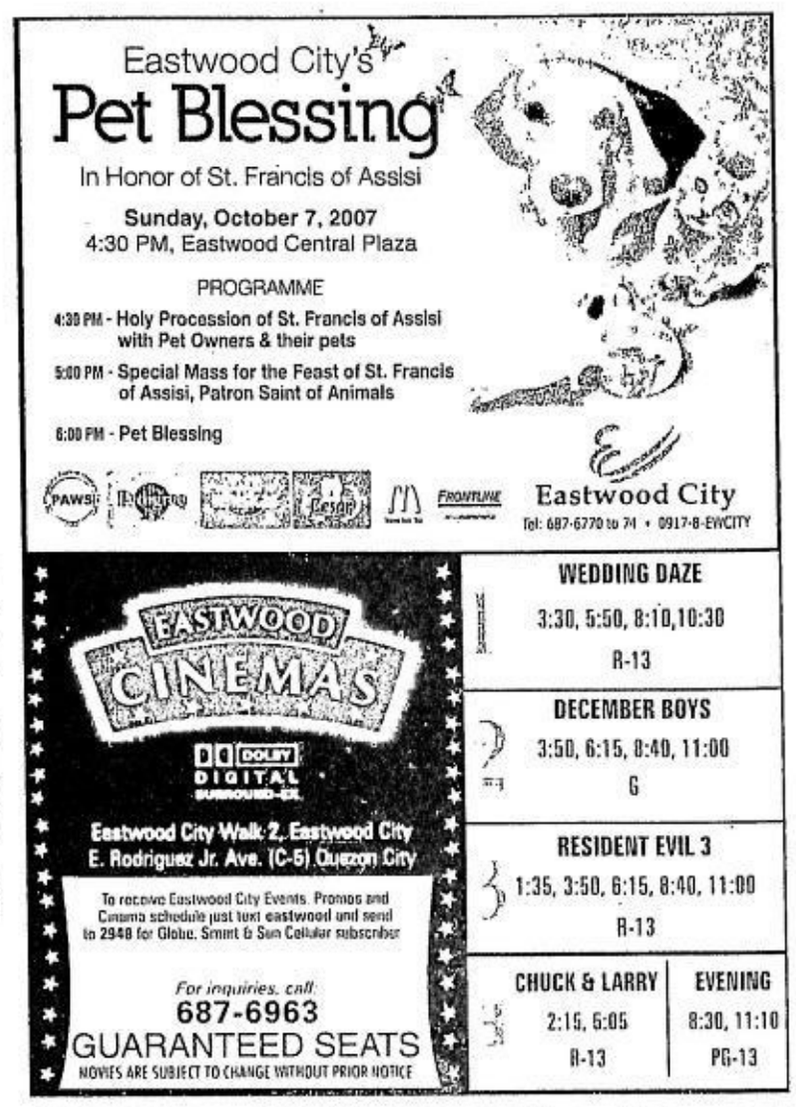
JAY Durias

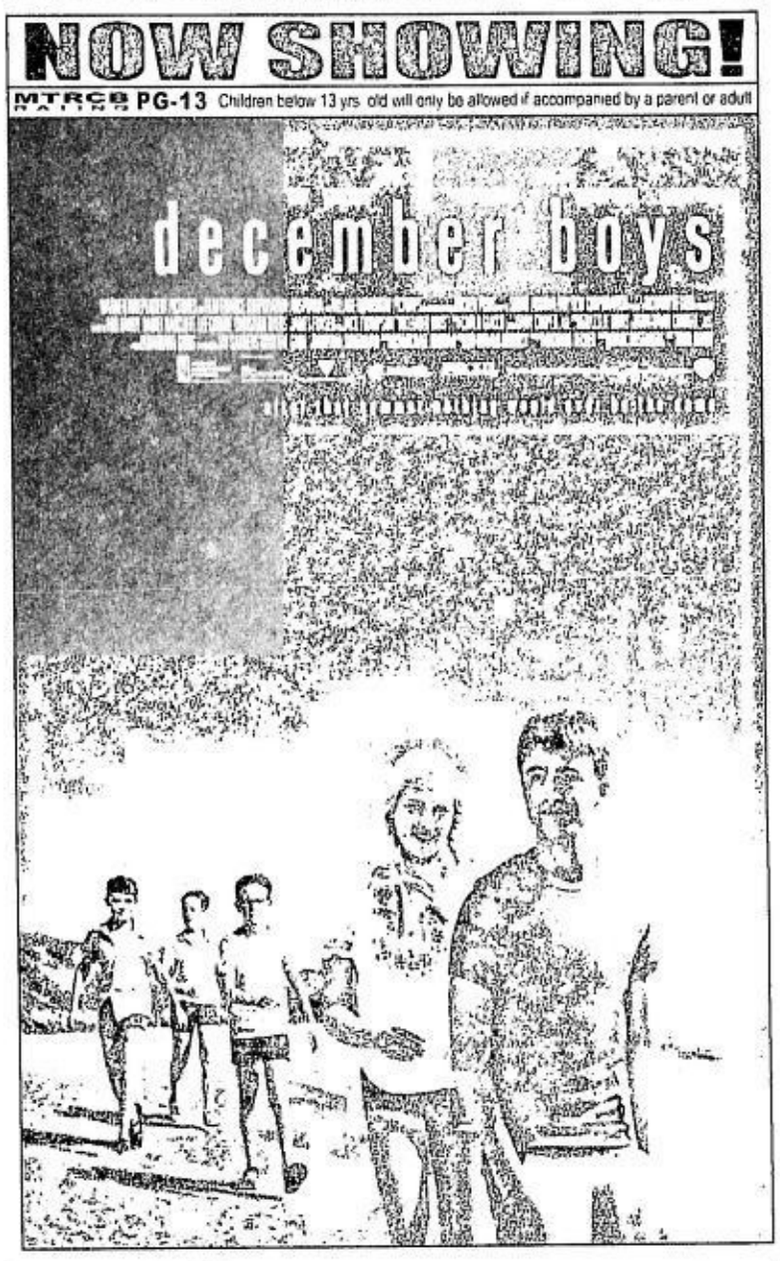
LONDON—British rock group Radiohead announced recently it will be selling its latest album at a bargain price: whatever the customer wants to pay for the download.

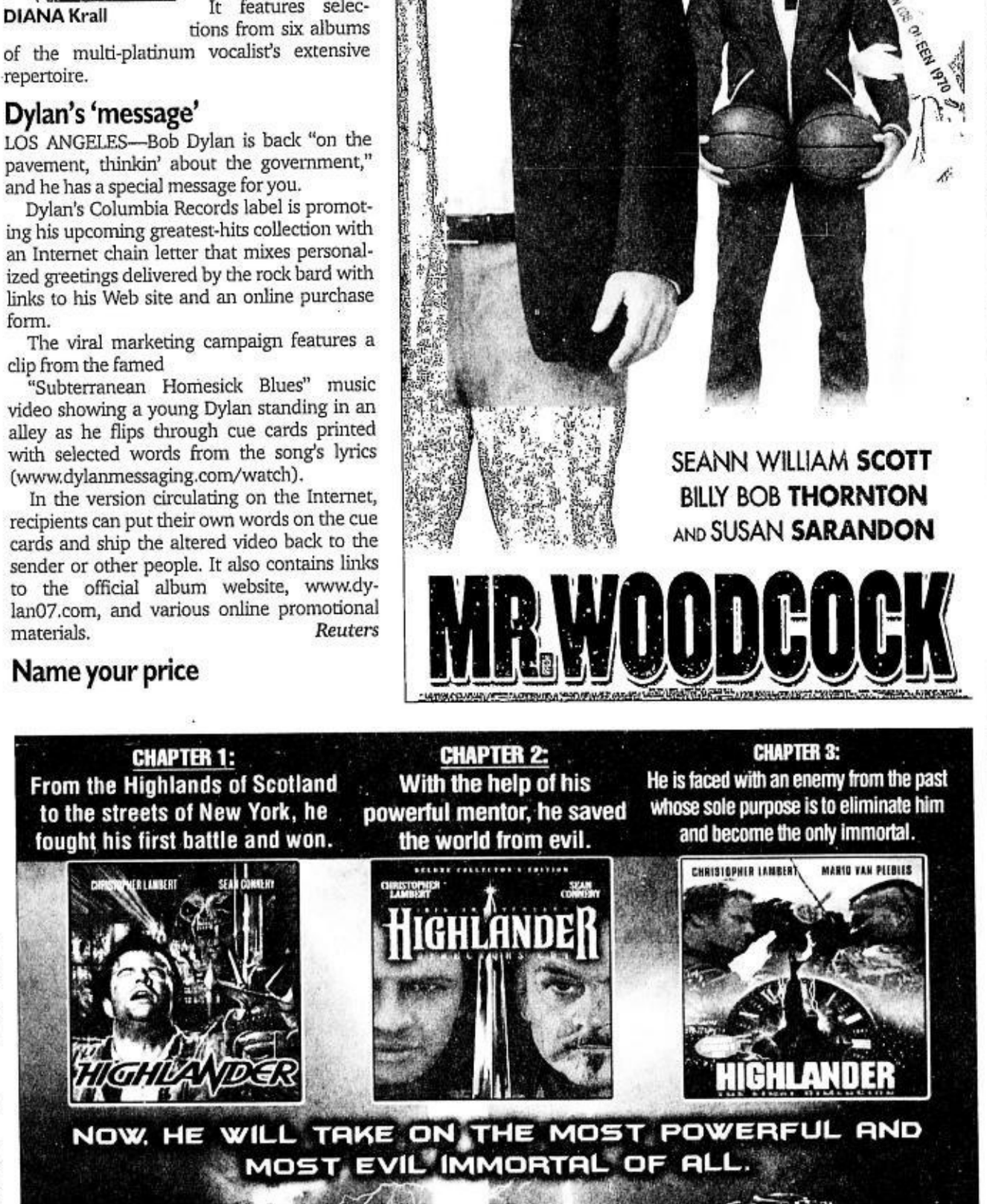
"It's up to you" says a website message instead of a price for the record, "In Rainbows," to be released on Oct. 10, although a hard copy packaged version will also be available for 40 pounds.

"Hello everyone. Well, the new album is finished, and it's coming out in ten days. We've called it 'In Rainbows.' Love from us all. Jonny," says guitarist Jonny Greenwood on the website, www.radiohead.com/deadairspace/.

The four-piece band formed in Oxford, central England, in the 1980s and reached global stardom with hit albums "OK Computer" and "Kid A," featuring intense, atmospheric sounds and Tom Yorke's falsetto voice. *AFP*



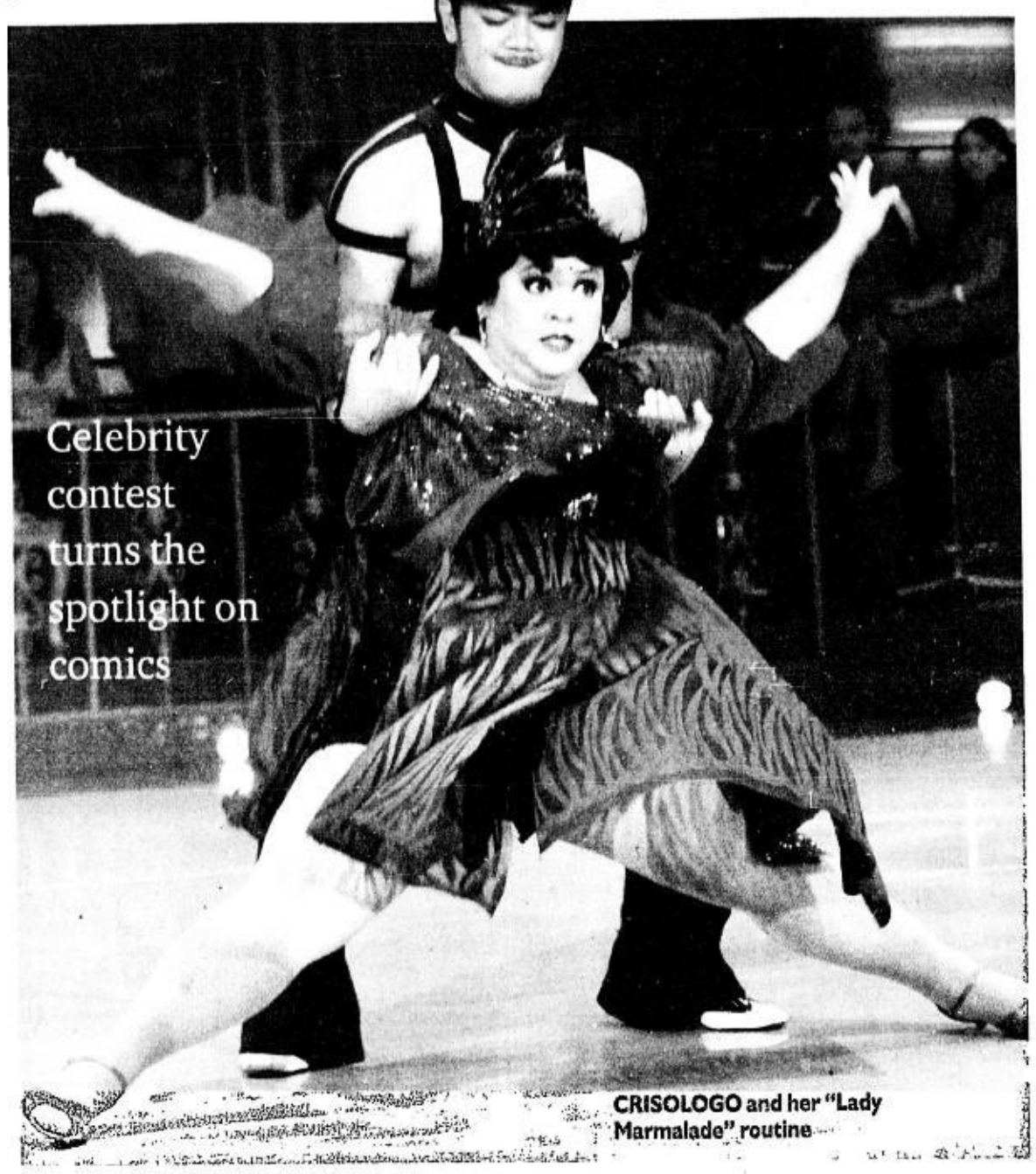




EMPOY and Farida Laura

MALOU Crisologo and Jeffrey Derilo

JOY Viado and Jojit Cabuenas



Celebrity contest turns the spotlight on comics

CRISOLOGO and her "Lady Marmalade" routine

Dance till you laugh

EMPOY prances to "Caveman/Rock This Party."

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by August de la Cruz

THESE COMICS SEEMED TO be the last people a choreographer would hire for a ballroom showdown. Then again, ABC 5's "Shall We Dance," now in its second year, has always come up with unlikely dance discoveries.

This was the same dance show that turned scandal magnet Mystica into a respectable dancesport diva.

On its Sixth Season finals night to be aired tonight, the celebrity dance competition turned the spotlight on three comedians: Empoy, Joy Viado and Malou Crisologo. It was dance till you laugh. For the contestants, however, it was serious business.

The competition started with six comedians divided into two batches. (Marissa Sanchez, Dinky Doo Jr. and Debraliz Valasote were the other aspirants.)

Batch 1 champ Sanchez had to bow out because she was downed by spondylosis or spinal osteoarthritis. Or as Crisologo would put it: "*Sosyal na rayuma.*" Sanchez chose friend Viado, Batch 2 runner-up, to compete in the finals in her stead. Batch 2 runner-up Crisologo was handpicked by the judges as the wildcard contestant.

The judges

Judges consist of dancer Regine Tolentino, theater veteran Audie Gemora and dancesport world champion Ednah Ledesma. The show is hosted by Lucy Torres-Gomez and Dominic Ochoa. Batch 2 winner Empoy completed the final three.

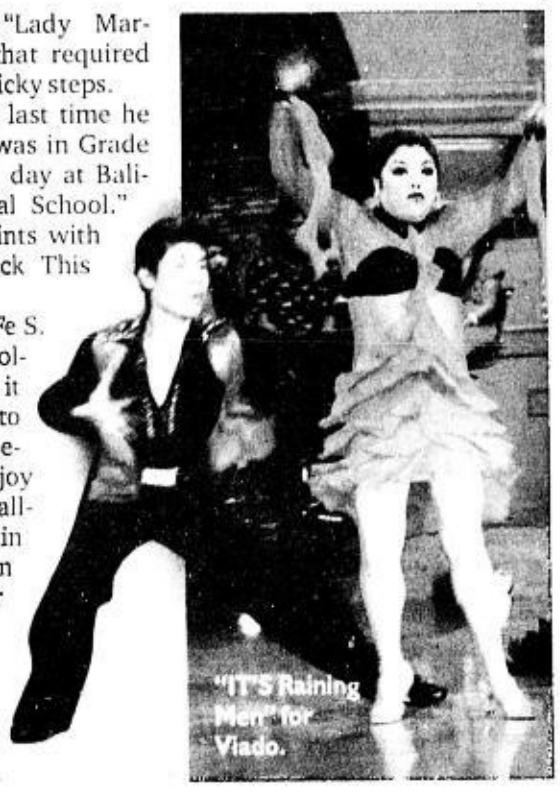
The three comedians were paired with professional dance instructors: Empoy with Farida Laura, Crisologo with Jeffrey Derilo and Viado with Jojit Cabuenas. Theater-trained Crisologo admitted that rehearsing for the show was a mighty challenge. "Our batch consisted of 'heavyweights,'" she related. "The first time we rehearsed, my thighs got sore. It had been 10 years since I last danced onstage."

On finals night, however, she got rave reviews from the judges for her "Lady Marmalade" routine that required lifting and other tricky steps.

Empoy said the last time he danced in public was in Grade Four. "It was field day at Baliwag North Central School." Empoy scored points with his "Caveman/Rock This Party" number.

Viado, the first Fe S. Panlilio voice scholar, confessed that it was her first time to join a dance competition. "I enjoy watching the ballroom dancers in Funside (bar) on Timog. I never thought I could be that graceful."

Preparing for the finale was "hard," Viado admitted. "We had two rehearsals that lasted half a day." Viado was lauded by the judges for her "drag-queen-inspired" version of "It's Raining Men."



"It's Raining Men" for Viado.

To the limit

For the three comics, it was a chance to push themselves to the limit.

"It was a new experience for me. I asked all my friends to vote for me via text," Crisologo said. (Scores were divided into: 25 percent, text votes and 75 percent, judges' ratings.) Said Viado: "Finally, I fulfilled my dream to be a ballroom dancer. I did it!"

Empoy agreed: "I was only into hip-hop then. I never knew that there were dance steps like rumba, swing, jive, *tumbang preso*." Crisologo concluded: "It was physically tiring, but I enjoyed myself."

Teri Thatcher should apologize, says actor-politician

IN PAST ELECTIONS, TWO veteran *politicos* complained that a certain actor-turned-politico offered to back out of the race in exchange for cash. The *trapos* refused and the controversial star was forced to run. The tragedy: He won.

Blurry memories

An award-winning actress gleefully recounts that a late co-star known for his acting prowess, also had a mischievous streak. "He once brought to the set brownies laced with marijuana to the set," she says. "He didn't tell me until after I had eaten a couple of slices!"

Teri who?

A grandstanding actor-turned-politico (another one) gives his two cents' worth on the "Desperate Housewives" controversy—on live national TV: "Teri Thatcher should apologize!" Paging Margaret!

Extra sweet

Guess who were extra sweet to each other on the set of "Bubble Gang" when we recently visited?

BOY2 Quizon and Maureen Larrazabal JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Maureen Larrazabal and **Boy2 Quizon**. They were inseparable throughout the taping.

Is he, really?

A wag comments, "At least **Dennis Trillo**'s admission of fathering a child was not meant to silence gay rumors." Unlike a certain heartthrob whose alleged love child doesn't bear any resemblance to him. *Meow*.

Next Dyesebel?

After "Marimar," GMA 7 is grooming **Marian Rivera** to don the golden "Dyesebel" fishtail for a planned *fantaserye*. She allegedly got the stamp of approval from the heirs of **Mars Ravelo**, creator of the Pinoy mermaid.

Call from Nora

Entertainment columnist **Rey Pumaloy** told Rushes that he received a call from **Nora Aunor** soon after her acquittal. "She had a request," Pumaloy related. "That ABS-CBN does not air an old interview she earlier gave about [adopted daughter] **Lotlot de Leon**." Intriguing.

Quote of the week

A glamorous **Ruffa Gutierrez** answers a TV reporter's question with the quizzically *jologs*, "Why not, coconut?" Sure beats fellow beauty queen **Melanie Marquez**'s "witticism" that left gregarious TV host **Edu Manzano** speechless years ago: "*Bahala na si* Batman!"

Secret course

This actress, who recently got back to school to fulfill her wish of finishing college, is secretly taking up law. Which makes people close to her speculate if she's preparing to join her husband in politics.

***

Top of the tabloids

RYAN Agoncillo and Judy Ann Santos

RUSHES SUNDAY

The top show biz stories in local tabloids this week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

•Nora Aunor *ayaw bumalik sa Pinas?*

•Ate Guy, *sinasanto ang* slot machine!? (*Meron dito no'n a!*)

Right to sing

•**Kyla** *panay ang praktis ng* 'Lupang Hinirang'.

•Ara, *may karapatan din namang kumanta ng* 'Lupang Hinirang' *no!* (*Kami rin!*)

•**Rustom** *bagong reyna ng* GMA 7! (*Bongga!*)

Much ado...

•**Jinkee Pacquiao** wants **Ara Mina** to return all of **Manny**'s gifts.

•*Hindi raw totoong niregaluhan ni* Pacman ... 2 *sasakyan ni* Ara *'di pa bayad!*

•Jinkee *naiyak sa* birthday *ng anak! Sina* Ara *at* Manny *kaya ang dahilan?*

•Ara *napuno na kay* Jinkee, *may pasasabugin* vs. Manny. (*Ayan na.*)

... over old issues

•**Aiko** *laging pinagbabantaan ng asawa! Parang preso sa sariling bahay.*

•Aiko, *nakabangon na mula sa sakit ng pakikipaghiwalay!*

•Aiko, *umaming may pagkukulang din kay* **Martin Jickain**.

Unlikely tandems

•**Heart Evangelista**, *di mang-gugulo sa* **Echo Rosales/Sarah Geronimo** tandem.

•*Relasyon nina* **Angel** at **Piolo** *baka mauwi na sa totohanan! (Baka hindi rin.)*

•**Luis Manzano**, *ipinakilala ni* Angel *kay* **Ali Sotto**?

Newbies, nudies

•Marian Rivera, *handang mag-*topless!

•**Angelika dela Cruz**, *pinipilit maghubad!*

•**Roxanne Guinoo** *mag-buburles daw kung...*

•Roxanne, *nagpa-*tattoo *ng pangalan ni* **Jake Cuenca**?

•Jake *takot mag-*bold?

•**Keanna Reeves** *at* Jake Cuenca, *'nagkatikiman'?*

•**Yeng Constantino** *hindi* feel *umarte;* **Jay-R** *ayaw maghubad!*

Things to come

•**Ryan**, enjoy *mag-alaga ng ampon ni* **Juday**. *(Uuuy, nagpapraktis ...)*

•*"Magaling na tatay si* Ryan!" —Juday

•Juday *at* Ryan, *hindi totoong nagli-*live in *na!*

•Juday *at* Ryan, honeymoon sa December?

•Ryan *at* Juday *pinagaawayan ang panonood ng sine.*

Sour aftermath

•Dennis Trillo, *pinagmukang tanga ang publiko!*

•Dennis *takot malaos kaya ngayon lang inamin ang anak?*

•Rufa Mae *at* Dennis, *naging mag-dyowa?*

Define *hiwalay*

•**Diet** at **Kristine** *hiwalay na talaga!* (*Talagang talaga?*)

•After failed marriage, Kristine

DENNIS Trillo

goes back to family.

•Kristine, *si* Diet *ang gustong maging ama ng anak!*

No, no, no

•*"Hindi ako nanlalaki!"* —Coney Reyes

•*"Hindi ako buntis!"*—Vina Morales

•"Virgin *na* virgin *pa rin ako!"* —Christian Bautista

•**Jennica Garcia**, *itinangging nililigawan na siya ni* **Mart Escudero**!

•**Jean Garcia**, *itinangging pinagagamit niya ng* condom *sina* Jennica *at* Mart.

•**JC de Vera** *at* **Yasmien Kurdi**, *mga bagong* denial king and queen!

•Vina Morales *umamin sa relasyong* **John Prats-Shaina Magdayao**. (*Bakit si* Ate Vina ang umamin?)

Dirty laundry

•**Paolo Paraiso**, *muntik nang mapikon kay* **DJ Mo**!

•**Sabrina M**, *tumatanggap na lang ng labada?*

•**Paolo Contis**, *hinigitan ang* nude pictorial *ni* **Dingdong Dantes**?!

•Nude photos *ni* **Mike Tan** *pagpipiyestahan.*

•Who raped **Snooky**?

•*Si* Snooky na-rape *sa edad na katorse,* hello?!

•Snooky, *kahit anong isyu pinapasukan para kumita. Dahil malaking* TF *tuwing may* interview.

•*Gimik ni* Snooky, *wa epek na!*

Guts, gumption

•*Sa mga babaeng naka-relasyon ...* **Polo Ravales**, *gustong balikan si* **Sunshine Dizon**!

•Boobs *ni* **Iwa Moto**, *nabugbog sa* taping. (*Aray.*)

•'Zaido' *nag-*rate *dahil sa bukol ng mga bida. (Nauntog sila?)*

Usapang guwapo

•**Jesi Corcuera** *mas 'guwapo' raw kay* **Aiza Seguerra**.

•*Kahit manipis na ang buhok ...* **Daboy** *guwapo pa rin.*

Que horror!

•**Mother Lily** *minulto!*

•"Horror is my forte."—Mother Lily

•**Vic Sotto** *natulala sa bagets na dyowa ni* **Dina Bonnevie**.

•**Pops Fernandez**, *kakasuhan si* **Martin Nievera**!

•**Erik Santos**, *babalikan ni* **Rufa Mae**.

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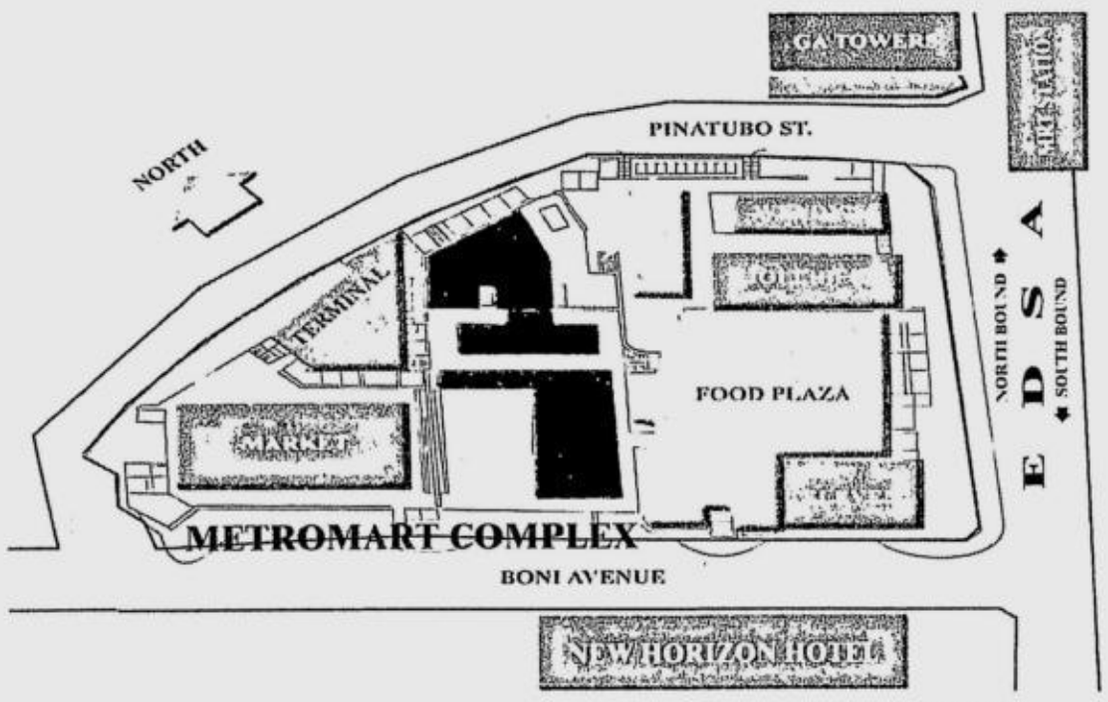
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2007

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIVELIHOOD CORPORATION
7/F One Corporate Plaza Cond., 845 A. Arnaiz Ave. Legazpi Vill., Brgy. San Lorenzo, Makati City Tel. No. 817-0771

PRIME PROPERTY FOR SALE



Vicinity Map

INVITATION TO BID

The Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR), is offering for sale in cash or installment the property described below:

Description	**: Commercial Complex**
Area	**: 7,428.0 square meters**
Address	**: Along EDSA cor. Boni Avenue and Pinatubo Sts., Mandaluyong City**
Floor Price	**: P 426,977,000.00**
Terms of Sale	**: Cash or Installment (Best Offer)**

1. The sale of the property shall be on an **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"** basis.
2. Bidders bond shall not be less than 1% of the floor price.
3. Bidding documents can be secured upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 at the following address.

BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE
The Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR)
7th Floor One Corporate Plaza,
845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.

4. Pre-Bid Conference will be on November 09, 2007, Friday at 2:00PM, Conference Room, The Livelihood Corporation, 7th Floor One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.
5. The sealed bids should be dropped at the designated drop box located at the security desk of the Livelihood Corporation, 7th Floor One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City on or before 2:00PM on November 29, 2007, Thursday.
6. The property is available for inspection to all bidders during business days and hours from Mondays to Fridays.

For more details, please contact Luz C. Jacinto, BAC Secretariat at tel. no. (02) 817-07-71 / 817-04-64 and Cell No. 0918-6078530 or Felix Samson, Assistant Project Head, EDMD at tel. no. 531-3324 and cell no 0928-3038068.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS AND TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

For the Bids and Awards Committee:

(Sgd.) **E. ALEXIS G. SEVIDAL, CESO IV**
Chairman

(PDI–Sept. 23, 30 & Oct. 7, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIVELIHOOD CORPORATION
7/F One Corporate Plaza Cond., 845 A. Arnaiz Ave., Legazpi Vill., Brgy. San Lorenzo, Makati City Tel. No. 817-0771

INVITATION TO BID

The Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR) is offering for sale or lease the properties described below:

OFFICE CONDOMINIUM (ENTIRE 7TH FLOOR)

	PROPERTY/LOCATION	AREA	DESCRIPTION	FLOOR PRICE
1	**ONE CORPORATE PLAZA** 7th/F, OCP, 845 A. Arnaiz Ave., Makati City	987.75 sq.m.	Condominium (Office Space ONLY, excluding furniture & fixtures)	44,449,000.00

INDUSTRIAL/ RESIDENTIAL LOTS:

1	**LAGUNA PROPERTY** Km. 71, Brgy. San Andres, Alaminos, Laguna	17,394 sq.m.	Industrial Land	8,007,600.00
2	**DAVAO PROPERTY** R. Castillo St., Brgy. Agdao, Davao City	3,696 sq.m.	Light Industrial Land	6,914,000.00
3	**BULACAN PROPERTY** Purok 4, Brgy. Santissima Trinidad, Malolos City, Bulacan	3,397 sq.m.	Residential Land	2,718,000.00
4	**BOHOL PROPERTY** Brgy. Dampas, Tagbilaran City, Bohol	551 sq.m.	Residential Lots (2 adjoining lots)	1,653,000.00
5	**CABANATUAN PROPERTY** Brgy. Kalikid Sur, (Cabu), Cabanatuan City	1,335 sq.m.	Residential Land	304,000.00
6	**BACOLOD PROPERTY** Pag-asa St. Extension, Brgy. Tangub, Bacolod	220 sq.m.	Residential Land	616,000.00
7	**PANGASINAN PROPERTY** Brgy. Buenlag, Binmaley, Pangasinan	1,506 sq.m.	Residential Land	1,092,000.00

Conditions:
1. Winning bidders shall assume responsibility of paying any and/or all taxes relative to the sale or transfer of the properties.
2. Bidders bond shall not be less than 1% of the floor price.
3. Bidding documents can be secured upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 at the following address:

BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE
The Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR)
7th Floor One Corporate Plaza,
845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.

4. Pre-Bid Conference will be on November 16, 2007, Friday at 2:00 PM, Conference Room, The Livelihood Corporation, 7th Floor One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.
5. The sealed bids should be dropped at the designated drop box located at the security desk of the Livelihood Corporation, 7th Floor One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City on or before 2:00 PM on Wednesday, November 28, 2007.
6. All bidders are enjoined to inspect the property/ies before submitting their bids.

For more details, please contact Luz C. Jacinto, BAC Secretariat at tel. no. (02) 817-07-71 or 817-04-64 and Cell No. 0918-6078530 or Felix Samson, Officer-in-Charge, EDMD at tel. no. 531-3324 and cell no. 0928-3038068.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS AND TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

For the Bids and Awards Committee:

E. ALEXIS G. SEVIDAL, CESO IV
Chairman

(PDI–Oct. 7, 2007)

Health Policy Development Program

UPecon Foundation, Inc.
A USAID-supported project in partnership with FACE, Inc and UCSF-IGH

The Health Policy Development Program

The Health Policy Development Program (HPDP) is a USAID-supported, 5-year initiative implemented by the UPecon Foundation, Inc. It aims to assist the Department of Health (DOH) in its institutional role of shaping the policy environment towards achieving better health outcomes, a more responsive health system, and equitable health care financing. HPDP is providing assistance along the following Program Components:

1) Contraceptive Self-Reliance, Family Planning/ Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (CSR-FP/MNCH)
2) Standards and Regulations (S&R)
3) Local Health Systems (LHS)
4) Health Care Financing (HCF)
5) Capacity-Building, Sustainability and Institutionalization (CSI)

As part of the CSI component, HPDP is implementing the Health Policy Fellowship Program (HP).

HEALTH POLICY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

HPDP wishes to announce its **Health Policy (HP) Fellowship Program** for junior professionals interested to pursue a career in health policy work. The HP Fellowship Program provides exciting learning opportunities in policy work through internship with the DOH, and/or its attached agencies as **HP Fellows**. The **HP Fellows** will be provided opportunities to:

a. Perform regular and special technical staff work on a full-time basis;
b. Attend short courses on health policy;
c. Participate in various policy fora and workshops; and
d. Meet regularly with designated HPDP mentors to discuss progress of their policy work

Applicants must be graduates of degree programs in medicine or other health-related courses, public administration, economics and other social sciences, management, communications, information technology, statistics or mathematics. They must express interest in health policy and systems development work.

Successful applicants will be engaged for a minimum of six months. HPDP offers a highly competitive compensation package for the fellowship, depending on individual qualifications.

To apply, please submit: (1) letter of application, (2) curriculum vitae, and (3) official transcript of records or true copy of grades, to Dr. Orville C. Solon, Chief of Party, HPDP, Room 322, PCED Building, UP School of Economics, Diliman, Quezon City, 1101.

For inquiries, please write or call

Ms. Risa S. Yapchiongco,
HPDP Program Associate,
at Telefax +63 2 436 3677,
Tel +63 2 927 9686 loc 321 and 322,
or e-mail at **upecon.hpdp@gmail.com**

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINE NAVY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Construction of Two (2) Units 10-Door Apartment for Military Enlisted Personnel Quarters (MEQ) at TF-51 & NFC

1. The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the PN Bids and Awards Committee, intends to apply the sum as stated below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Philippine Navy Projects. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

Nomenclature/ Activity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time: Submission /Opening of Eligibility Documents	Date/Time: Pre-Bid Conference	Date/Time: Deadline for Submission/ Opening of Bids	Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
Construction of Two (2) Unit 10-Door Apartment for Enlisted Personnel Quarters (MEQ) (TF-51)	Php 16,162,245.20	October 15, 2007, 9:00 AM	October 23, 2007, 9:00 AM	November 5, 2007, 9:00 AM	Php 6,000.00
Construction of Two (2) Unit 10-Door Apartment for Enlisted Personnel Quarters (MEQ) (NFC)	Php 16,162,245.20				Php 6,000.00

2. The Armed Forces of the Philippines now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the **Construction of Two (2) Units 10-Door Apartment for Military Enlisted Personnel Quarters (MEQ) at TF-51 & NFC.** Bidders should posses a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their **LOIs** on or before **October 12, 2007** at the Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Taguig City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: **October 15, 2007, 9:00 AM** at the Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
3. The PN BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Requirements and Forms at PN BAC Secretariat, Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, upon the submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI), and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 300.00** ***(fee for the Eligibility Requirements and Forms).*** Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at the Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee before **October 15, 2007, 9:00 AM.**
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Secretariat, Philippine Navy Bids and Awards Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **0800H - 1700H** on **Monday** to **Friday.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The Armed Forces of the Philippines will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all Eligible Bidders on **October 23, 2007, 9:00 AM** at the ***Office of the Philippine Navy Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.***
7. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **November 5, 2007, 9:00 AM.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount specified below.
   - Manager's Check equivalent to One Hundred Sixty One Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Two Pesos & 45/100 **(P 161,622.45)** or **1%** of ABC.
   - Surety Bond equivalent to Four Hundred Four Thousand Fifty Six Pesos & 13/100 Pesos **(P 404,056.13)** or **2.5%** of ABC.

   Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **November 5, 2007, 9:00 AM.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives' who choose to attend at the address below.
8. Completion of the Works is required by One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days

Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee
BNS, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
*Contact Person: **CDR GLICERIO P VILLANUEVA PN***
Cel Nr: 0917-8599-434 / 0918-2016-522
Tel Nr: 616-8218, 815-3420, 843-4416 & 815-8093 local 6341

(Sgd.) **ADRIANO V MUNAR JR**
CAPT PN (GSC)
Chairman, PNBAC

(PDI–October 7, 2007)

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COMMISSION ON AUDIT

Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

REPORT ON FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

GOVERNMENT- OWNED AND/OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS (GOCCs)

FISCAL YEAR 2006

(in thousand pesos)

I 2

BALANCE SHEET [1]

GOCCs	Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Deferred 2 Credits	Total Equity
Financial A	2,186,293,895.95	2,250,645,389.12	5,174,603.67	(69,526,096.84)
Al-Amanah Islamic Investment Bank of the Philippines	181,378.95	682,961.00	8,555.67	(510,137.72)
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	1,571,362,973.00	1,304,600,645.00		266,762,328.00
Central Bank - Board of Liquidators	4,231,126.00	416,126,224.00		(411,895,098.00) [3]
Development Bank of the Philippines	235,308,335.00	202,970,214.00	1,747,437.00	30,590,684.00
Industrial Guarantee Loan Fund	6,278,042.01	1,112,355.61		5,165,686.39
Land Bank of the Philippines	365,372,563.00	323,009,408.00	3,418,611.00	38,944,544.00
Land Bank Countryside Development Foundation, Inc.	81,971.13	348.44		81,622.69
People's Credit Finance Corporation	3,477,506.87	2,143,233.07		1,334,273.79
Industrial and Area Development and Regulatory	321,093,191.32	80,914,740.56	8,278,931.05	231,899,519.71
Bases Conversion Development Authority	84,125,792.76	10,709,817.80	3,628,177.01	69,787,797.95
Bataan Technology Park, Inc.	325,554.01	392,380.31	1,707.10	(68,533.39)
BCDA Management Holdings, Inc.	430,671.49	107,986.22	14,186.53	308,498.75
Clark Development Corporation	4,557,638.92	1,562,846.78	13,005.26	2,981,786.88
John Hay Management Corporation	134,247.38	38,416.43	8,146.09	87,684.86
North Luzon Railway Corporation	8,742,054.86	8,913,080.13	4,626.45	(175,651.72)
Philippine Centennial Expo '98 Corporation	289,058.90	32,320.20		256,738.70
Poro Point Management Corporation	147,729.91	103,154.90		44,575.01
Cagayan Economic Zone Authority	652,340.80	28,027.96		624,312.84
Cebu Ports Authority	4,926,035.09	354,955.66		4,571,079.43
Garments and Textiles Export Board	6,395.66	481.63		5,914.04
Laguna Lake Development Authority	333,411.13	90,636.18		242,774.95
Mactan Cebu International Airport Authority	2,736,300.21	224,181.08	27,824.64	2,484,294.49
Manila International Airport Authority	23,081,539.24	8,977,096.53	96,403.20	14,008,039.50
Marawi Resort Hotel, Incorporated	27,782.30	3,248.11		24,534.19
National Housing Authority	25,888,910.23	5,593,842.16	2,380,157.47	17,914,910.61
Partido Development Administration	678,564.47	1,014,028.90		(335,464.43)
Philippine Aerospace Development Corporation	194,443.56	64,603.52		129,840.04
Philippine Economic Zone Authority	5,061,806.72	2,352,088.40	30,054.49	2,679,663.83
Philippine Ports Authority	81,121,590.71	9,231,713.74		71,889,876.97
Philippine National Construction Corporation	7,499,746.00	7,063,462.00		436,284.00
PNCC Traffic Control Products Corporation	26,000.10	50,380.46		(24,380.35)
PNCC Skyway Corporation	619,328.10	545,673.17		73,654.93
Philippine Reclamation Authority	34,278,667.99	10,128,512.29	693,942.55	23,456,213.15
PEA Tollway Corporation	140,048.61	137,410.32		2,638.29
Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority	29,107,058.19	8,148,734.18	1,379,490.97	19,578,833.04
Freeport Services Corporation	157,638.36	83,771.16	199.49	73,667.71
Sugar Regulatory Administration	691,467.65	176,257.26	970.31	514,240.08
Philippine Sugar Corporation	4,596,592.35	4,777,779.16		(181,186.81)
Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority	514,775.64	7,853.96	39.49	506,882.19
Agricultural, Trading and Promotional	111,414,096.15	111,225,450.31	12,154,332.05	(11,965,686.21)
Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions	510,485.82	54,188.20	7,788.42	448,509.20
Cottage Industry Technology Center	71,313.90	12,491.27		58,822.62
Food Terminal, Inc.	4,032,114.03	1,616,207.94	113,646.23	2,302,259.85
Human Settlements Development Corporation	957,368.87	156,834.53	2,094.11	798,440.23
National Agri-Business Corporation	222,058.11	1,589,641.98		(1,367,583.87)
Philippine Agricultural Development and Commercial Corporation	21,095.97	16,436.97	20.36	4,638.63
Philippine Genetics, Inc.	154,526.73	1,052,199.32		(897,672.59)
ZNAC Rubber Estate Corporation	12,623.97	9,347.37		3,276.59
Livelihood Corporation	558,314.25	420,062.40		138,251.85
Northern Foods Corporation	195,116.90	865,162.73		(669,045.83)
National Dairy Authority	649,689.60	470,639.02	106,715.66	72,334.73
National Food Authority	27,943,976.24	70,638,813.08		(42,694,836.85)
National Irrigation Administration	46,626,630.23	14,977,257.74	11,522,362.25	20,127,010.24
NIA Consult, Inc.	30,747.21	10,877.83	3,833.70	16,035.68
National Tobacco Administration	681,697.07	284,880.40	826.94	396,189.73
Natural Resources Development Corporation	437,151.15	246,685.33	28,220.79	160,245.02
Bukidnon Forests, Inc.	234,439.66	5,268.99		229,170.67
Philippine Coconut Authority	1,720,542.70	263,453.66	54,999.50	1,402,089.54
Philippine Commission on the Promotion and Development of Sports SCUBA Diving	1,019.34	84.28		935.06
Philippine Convention and Visitors Corporation	67,108.36	39,369.18	34.00	27,705.18
Philippine Fisheries Development Authority	718,481.59	699,961.38	10,260.89	18,259.32
Philippine International Trading Corporation	371,004.06	151,380.64		219,623.42
PITC-Pharma, Incorporated	314,026.34	290,464.70		23,561.64
Philippine Rice Research Institute	1,137,717.73	431,356.17		706,361.55
Philippine Tourism Authority	9,936,436.84	4,733,402.58	215,460.08	4,987,576.18
Quedan & Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation	13,807,207.50	12,196,962.61	88,068.91	1,522,155.98

GOCCs	Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Deferred Credits	Total Equity
Financial B	1,162,997,938.93	239,564,953.79	16,157,914.45	907,275,070.68
Employees' Compensation Commission	197,556.46	9,146.39	-	188,410.07
Government Service Insurance System	409,673,496.34	11,755,681.09	1,530,025.11	396,387,790.14
GSIS Family Bank	13,057,978.09	12,362,484.99	41,555.04	653,938.06
GSIS Mutual Fund, Inc.	1,922,760.35	39,621.10	-	1,883,139.25
Meat Packing Corp. of the Philippines	836,355.39	63,182.51	-	773,172.88
Home Development Mutual Fund	191,548,601.91	22,970,062.81	12,406,138.86	156,172,400.24
Home Guaranty Corporation	36,157,952.81	26,610,073.93	1,205,354.57	8,342,524.30
National Development Company	9,708,383.02	7,748,824.97	-	1,959,558.04
Alabang - Sto Tomas Development, Inc.	26,161.60	687.21	-	25,474.38
Batangas Land Company, Inc.	49,125.63	4,627.97	1,019.09	43,478.57
First Cavite Industrial Estate, Inc.	11,181.46	1,816.88	-	9,364.58
GY Real Estate, Inc.	9,445.22	31.48	-	9,413.74
Kamayan Realty Corporation	7,238.64	1,974.18	-	5,264.46
Luzon Integrated Services Inc.	4,881.97	14,120.14	-	(9,238.18)
Manila Gas Corporation	578,568.72	2,904.87	-	575,663.85
National Precision Cutting Tools, Inc.	24,397.72	121,408.70	-	(97,010.97)
National Slipways Corporation	2,813.56	2,410.35	-	403.21
National Stevedoring and Lighterage Corporation	12,371.86	25,126.90	-	(12,757.04)
National Trucking and Forwarding Corporation	2,583.55	37,228.01	-	(34,644.47)
NDC Maritime Equity Corporation	530,669.75	361,898.11	100,905.83	67,865.81
NDC Public Infrastructure Corporation	67,805.74	837.72	-	66,968.03
Pinagkaisa Realty Corporation	2,745.49	45.03	-	2,700.46
Tacoma Bay Shipping Company, Inc.	8,072.26	105.00	-	7,967.26
National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation	44,904,311.43	47,762,164.81	321,686.04	(3,179,539.42)
Social Housing Finance Corporation	6,842,339.61	6,781,668.14	-	60,671.47
Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation	1,546,989.42	458,816.16	22,393.69	1,065,779.58
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation	137,887,504.42	88,458,145.11	124,571.06	49,304,788.25
Philippine Health Insurance Corporation	68,903,002.77	4,524,880.25	6,754.90	64,371,367.62
PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority	4,893,249.48	4,340,588.23	368,613.17	184,048.09
Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation	3,763,994.39	1,608,584.96	-	2,155,409.43
Social Security System	228,444,457.19	3,428,978.62	19,611.84	224,995,866.73
Trade and Investment Devt. Corporation	1,370,942.69	66,825.17	9,285.26	1,294,832.26
Public Utilities Cluster	1,449,654,810.91	1,260,374,592.70	14,558,932.46	174,721,285.74
Local Water Utilities Administration	16,983,499.93	12,335,896.52	232,051.12	4,415,552.29
Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System	65,010,933.79	24,416,393.96	2,343,432.46	38,251,107.36
National Electrification Administration	18,824,426.27	18,857,987.23	116,310.66	(149,871.63)
National Power Corporation	1,117,552,065.65	1,056,550,923.87	5,353,419.38	55,647,722.39
Philippine National Oil Company	46,069,977.34	16,072,886.94	2,375,095.49	27,621,994.91
PNOC Alternative Fuels Corporation	3,338,458.77	18,100.89	532,868.02	2,787,489.86
PNOC Coal Corporation	337,149.59	260,169.65		76,979.94
PNOC Devt. & Management Corporation	775,115.76	8,802.45	189,082.80	577,230.51
PNOC Energy Devt. Corporation	75,140,580.15	47,287,955.06	6,846.94	27,845,778.15
PNOC Exploration Corporation	13,204,920.78	4,708,602.98	3,216,730.42	5,279,587.38
PNOC Malampaya Production Corporation	646.42	1,509.63		(863.20)
PNOC Shipping & Transport Corporation	732,846.09	370,688.11	6,198.97	355,959.01
Philippine Postal Corporation	7,101,582.67	4,881,078.49	56,843.24	2,163,660.94
Philippine Postal Savings Bank, Inc.	3,964,625.48	3,517,226.58	34,781.40	412,637.50
Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation	60,738,868.70	60,652,465.67		86,403.04
Water Districts	19,879,113.52	10,433,904.69	95,291.55	9,349,917.28
Social, Cutural and Scientific Cluster	43,054,883.28	11,794,497.74	234,266.82	31,026,098.72
Cultural Center of the Philippines	1,436,792.55	115,006.23	3,844.11	1,317,942.22
Development Academy of the Philippines	448,634.01	268,800.01	35,307.05	144,526.95
Lung Center of the Philippines	4,422,356.21	134,284.51	54.02	4,288,017.69
National Kidney and Transplant Institute	1,541,039.61	414,976.18	1,284.77	1,124,778.66
Nayong Pilipino Foundation, Inc.	7,675,138.01	40,498.77	30.34	7,634,608.91
Occupational Safety and Health Center	188,004.57	12,410.74	30.80	175,563.03
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration	9,945,124.20	155,926.34	4,283.25	9,784,914.61
People's Television Network, Inc.	1,214,855.35	444,420.70	48,362.98	722,071.67
Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation	7,474,968.46	4,225,081.00	8,906.61	3,240,980.85
Philippine Center for Economic Development	94,485.03	130.50	-	94,354.53
Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office	3,934,471.71	3,256,344.58	88,548.25	589,578.88
Philippine Children's Medical Center	586,648.29	146,827.01	6,125.68	433,695.60
Philippine Heart Center	1,100,003.02	542,044.04	741.92	557,217.06
Philippine Institute for Development Studies	386,130.86	8,578.62	13.86	377,538.38
Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care	194,907.52	2,442.49	55.29	192,409.74
Philippine Retirement Authority	468,589.15	38,403.24	19,357.16	410,828.76
Technology and Livelihood Resource Center	1,942,734.72	1,988,322.79	17,340.74	(62,928.81)
GRAND TOTAL	5,274,508,816.54	3,954,519,624.22	56,559,000.51	1,263,430,191.81

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES [4]

GOCCs	INCOME						EXPENSES				Subsidy [5] from NG/GOCCs/ Affiliates (Share of NG)	Provision for (Benefit from) Income Tax/ Final Creditable W/holding Tax	NET INCOME (LOSS) AFTER TAX
	Total Income	Permits and Licenses	Service Income	Business Income	Other Income	Gain/ Premiums	Total Expenses	PS	MOOE	Financial Expenses			
Financial A	99,608,633.23	-	369,490.47	88,678,563.37	6,461,060.97	4,099,518.42	103,666,709.86	13,543,639.43	71,765,766.91	18,357,303.52	2,500.00	420,536.60	(4,476,113.24)
Al-Amanah Islamic Investment Bank of the Philippines	9,513.86		-	4,714.30	3,243.59	1,555.96	62,681.81	22,736.93	39,940.26	4.63	-	-	(53,167.95)
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	55,791,832.00		-	52,410,337.00	3,381,495.00	-	52,007,244.00	5,310,766.00	37,144,740.00	9,551,718.00	-	-	3,784,588.00
Central Bank - Board of Liquidators	2,425.00		-		2,425.00	-	15,920,905.00	1,267.00	14,475,493.00	1,444,145.00	2,500.00 G	-	(15,915,980.00) [6]
Development Bank of the Philippines	18,322,912.00		369,005.00	14,633,637.00	1,225,277.00	2,094,993.00	14,445,724.00	2,977,263.00	5,571,577.00	5,896,884.00	-	139,276.00	3,737,912.00
Industrial Guarantee Loan Fund	322,253.11		485.47	310,844.05	10,861.14	62.45	66,939.34	-	37,159.48	29,779.86	-	72,194.49	183,119.27
Land Bank of the Philippines	24,762,706.00		-	20,940,834.00	1,818,965.00	2,002,907.00	20,907,501.00	5,186,824.00	14,383,593.00	1,337,084.00	-	162,091.00	3,693,114.00
Land Bank Countryside Development Foundation Inc.	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
People's Credit Finance Corporation	17,013.69		-	-	17,013.69	-	11,344.37	1,431.11	9,913.26	-	-	-	5,669.32
	379,977.57		-	378,197.02	1,780.55	-	244,370.34	43,331.39	103,350.92	97,688.03	-	46,975.11	88,632.12
Financial B	215,069,643.23	445.48	658,587.33	175,115,730.64	29,215,992.57	10,078,887.20	148,293,003.52	10,676,567.93	130,474,039.80	7,142,395.79	1,000,000.00	1,363,398.95	66,413,240.76
Employees' Compensation Commission	44,193.04		36,881.38	2,861.29	4,450.37		45,683.97	20,622.24	25,061.74				(1,490.93)
Government Service Insurance System	86,609,484.13	-	364,499.40	61,240,073.90 [7]	16,263,646.21	8,741,264.62	45,668,150.73	3,639,574.18	42,028,576.56	-	-	-	40,941,333.40
GSIS Family Bank	642,210.30			497,429.71	144,766.31	14.28	574,034.93	59,693.61	78,360.67	435,980.66			68,175.37
GSIS Mutual Fund, Inc.	604,799.24				70,097.38	534,701.87	36,002.95		36,002.95			6,488.05	562,308.24
Meat Packing Corp. of the Philippines	603.84				603.84		7,780.17		6,888.73	891.44			(7,176.33)
Home Development Mutual Fund	16,710,158.13			12,223,448.78	4,450,615.11	36,094.24	7,705,099.89	1,474,745.41	4,433,662.25	1,796,692.22		1,274,681.06	7,730,377.19
Home Guaranty Corporation	461,585.56		11,899.84	434,139.16	2,459.08	13,087.49	1,232,240.95	69,526.26	223,108.96	939,605.72		2,820.08	(773,475.47)
National Development Company	939,831.58			113,886.36	742,683.91	83,281.31	589,031.89	7,108.26	219,895.70	362,027.93		20,712.82	330,086.88
Alabang - Sto Tomas Development, Inc.	188.92				188.92		3,633.27	1,460.47	2,172.80			37.78	(3,482.14)
Batangas Land Company, Inc.	25,780.39			25,469.78	310.61		23,975.62	381.66	23,593.27	0.69		495.11	1,309.67
First Cavite Industrial Estate, Inc.	1,090.11				1,090.11		1,069.64	304.37	764.07	1.19			20.47
GY Real Estate, Inc.	347.24			340.74	6.50		244.49	19.31	225.13	0.06		33.69	69.06
Kamayan Realty Corporation	846.39			846.05	0.35		1,934.99	19.31	1,915.68				(1,088.59)
Luzon Integrated Services Inc.	92.12				92.12		211.90		211.68	0.22			(119.78)
Manila Gas Corporation	597,391.68				24,141.79	573,249.89	68,952.52	538.75	67,390.19	1,023.58		6,101.20	522,337.95
Natl. Precision Cutting Tools, Inc.	709.67				709.67		785.68		784.24	1.44			(76.00)
Natl. Slipways Corporation	108.66				108.66		36.31	21.00	15.00	0.31			72.35
Natl. Stevedoring and Lighterage Corporation	719.77				719.77		1,007.23	946.55	58.69	1.99			(287.46)
Natl Trucking and Forwarding Corporation	187.40				187.40		553.07		553.07				(365.68)
NDC Maritime Equity Corporation	18,819.31		1,121.79	1,069.21	16,628.32		44,081.56	9,789.15	5,237.47	29,054.94			(25,262.25)
NDC Public Infrastructure Corporation	4,563.52			1,800.00	2,763.52		12,131.63	9,577.45	2,554.17				(7,568.11)
Pinagkaisa Realty Corporation	707.58			695.52	12.06		576.98	19.31	557.60	0.07		39.42	91.19
Tacoma Bay Shipping Company, Inc.	347.46				347.46		15.43		15.00	0.43			332.02
Natl. Home Mortgage Finance Corporation	1,609,580.85		40,293.90		1,558,920.65	10,366.30	1,161,068.85	216,805.61	227,737.03	716,526.21	1,000,000.00 N		1,448,512.00
Social Housing Finance Corporation	136,939.85		84,669.89	31,640.58	20,629.37		74,729.06	38,339.91	35,562.08	827.07		16,460.16	45,750.62
Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation	157,510.73			108,112.01	49,398.12		282,111.56	75,866.09	201,602.42	4,643.05			(124,600.83)
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation	12,846,019.15		1,379.69	12,772,582.49	21,584.68	50,472.29	12,371,183.85		9,660,390.39	2,710,793.46		29,618.65	445,216.65
Philippine Health Insurance Corporation	28,223,339.86			22,598,596.45	5,624,304.13	439.28	19,117,004.99	694,506.02	18,421,615.58	883.39			9,106,334.87
PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority	206,268.39	445.48	117,841.43	70,960.48	17,041.00		298,777.88	44,387.45	183,383.93	71,006.50			(92,469.49)
Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation	310,565.46			148,717.06	130,272.85	31,575.55	240,505.12	50,286.54	120,880.93	69,337.66		5,910.94	64,149.40
Social Security System	64,651,499.64			64,651,499.64 [8]			58,501,879.32	4,152,772.02	54,346,011.75	3,095.55			6,149,620.32
Trade and Investment Devt. Corporation	263,133.28			191,560.84	67,232.34	4,340.10	228,507.09	109,257.00	119,250.08				34,626.19

Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON AUDIT

Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

REPORT ON FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

GOVERNMENT- OWNED AND/OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS (GOCCs)

FISCAL YEAR 2006

(in thousand pesos)

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STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

GOCCs	INCOME						EXPENSES				Subsidy from NG/GOCCs/ Affiliates (Share of NG)	Provision for (Benefit from) Income Tax/ Final Creditable Witholding Tax	NET INCOME (LOSS) AFTER TAX
	Total Income	Permits and Licenses	Service Income	Business Income	Other Income	Gain/ Premiums	Total Expenses	PS	MOOE	Financial Expenses			
Public Utilities	296,267,946.92	989.66	4,536,451.45	194,039,548.66	12,992,946.97	84,718,010.17	189,882,130.63	9,710,530.53	153,265,395.06	26,906,205.04	2,950,160.98	1,191,269.52	108,164,707.75
Local Water Utilities Administration	1,950,930.32		149,416.76		1,773,826.97	27,686.59	1,269,166.52	447,390.08	370,537.80	451,238.64		232,526.66	449,236.94
Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System	5,490,527.04			3,240,469.33	182,257.26	2,067,800.45	2,874,418.30	174,975.96	1,910,490.43	788,951.91			2,616,108.74
National Electrification Administration	558,134.70		29,139.96		521,467.03	7,527.72	1,766,233.86	110,860.28	670,820.48	784,553.10	1,585,259.76 N		377,160.60
National Power Corporation	256,907,368.20			175,128,409.57	6,669,582.17	75,109,376.46	166,908,800.07	3,486,272.15	140,845,999.55	22,576,528.37			89,998,568.13
Philippine National Oil Company	9,425,751.25			140,105.29	3,149,611.90	6,136,034.06	385,214.59	51,035.88	291,697.31	42,481.40		(5,321.52)	9,045,858.18
PNOC Alternative Fuels Corporation	120,819.83			42,533.15	78,286.67		117,960.97	22,110.51	95,846.66	14.81		85,844.17	(83,005.31)
PNOC Coal Corporation	24.44				24.44		1,428.47		1,428.47				(1,404.04)
PNOC Devt. & Management Corporation	69,198.79			52,124.00	17,074.78		49,484.12	27,079.90	22,404.22			5,348.83	14,365.84
PNOC Exploration Corporation	6,601,671.68		13,039.13	6,248,050.68	82,798.01	257,783.86	3,159,000.70	31,356.86	2,401,592.35	726,049.47		839,363.32	2,603,307.66
PNOC Malampaya Production Corporation	5.22				5.22		6.28		6.28				(1.06)
PNOC Shipping & Transport Corporation	394,213.73			386,866.67	6,986.44	360.63	329,726.34	76,325.86	218,833.98	34,566.50			64,487.40
Philippine National Railways	3,720,036.49	551.75	3,502,156.29	211,955.00	5,217.71	155.75	3,684,414.58	2,553,067.91	1,092,690.87	38,655.81	1,364,701.22 NG		1,400,323.13
Philippine Postal Corporation	407,935.35			374,269.60	30,054.31	3,611.44	364,349.08	101,508.58	139,749.87	123,090.64		18,419.62	25,166.65
Philippine Postal Savings Bank, Inc.													
Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation	2,208,082.90		760,680.05		342,201.49	1,105,201.35	1,522,669.40	113,908.72	907,295.62	501,465.07			685,413.50
Water Districts	8,433,246.99	437.91	82,019.27	8,214,765.37	133,552.58	2,471.86	7,449,237.36	2,514,626.84	4,096,001.18	838,609.34	200.00 G	15,088.25	969,121.38
Industrial and Area Development and Regulatory	30,104,482.41	373,923.01	12,615,406.26	14,406,316.77	1,391,609.97	1,317,226.40	24,165,837.33	4,550,596.93	17,741,552.70	1,873,687.70	1,821,485.21	1,280,665.18	6,479,465.11
Bases Conversion Development Authority	1,970,824.51	-	-	863,816.00	348,273.74	758,734.78	1,185,141.15	104,948.74	844,857.86	235,334.55	-	17,391.57	768,291.79
Bataan Technology Park, Inc.	1,204.07	18.48	-	1,151.12	34.46	-	66,759.16	7,759.41	58,980.04	19.72	1,742.21 G	-	(63,812.69)
BCDA Management Holdings, Inc.	64,930.07	-	39,645.31	204.23	21,529.72	3,550.81	58,954.98	50,077.66	8,877.33	-	-	222.36	5,752.72
Clark Development Corporation	778,329.26	12,513.84	18,639.42	710,473.72	35,933.80	768.48	614,868.54	312,510.92	301,261.35	1,096.27	-	15,618.81	147,841.91
John Hay Management Corporation	45,735.77	-	41,744.21	2,422.75	1,244.59	324.22	43,655.22	15,787.22	27,863.00	-	-	369.01	1,711.53
Philippine Centennial Expo '98 Corporation	47.36	-	-	-	47.36	-	444.46	432.00	12.46	-	-	-	(397.10)
Poro Point Management Corporation	38,932.16	-	-	-	38,932.16	-	38,173.78	16,432.68	21,741.10	-	-	753.99	4.39
Cagayan Economic Zone Authority	93,092.32	79,042.86	3,595.38	4,162.37	6,291.71	-	61,981.54	13,276.81	48,451.67	253.07	40,000.00 N	9,955.45	61,155.33
Cebu Ports Authority	522,562.44	-	-	508,247.84	7,743.84	6,570.76	277,936.40	68,056.36	206,844.78	3,035.27	-	107,524.56	137,101.47
Garments and Textiles Export Board	7,045.61	-	-	-	7,045.61	-	12,776.13		12,774.66	1.47	-	-	(5,730.52)
Laguna Lake Development Authority	141,543.41	81,166.46	51,659.85	280.95	8,436.15	-	136,984.50	57,894.53	78,997.69	92.29	-	-	4,558.91
Mactan Cebu International Airport Authority	836,253.22	-	575,837.55	244,364.80	15,797.64	253.24	526,175.22	170,434.61	330,374.23	25,366.39	-	99,224.96	210,853.04
Manila International Airport Authority	5,530,727.00	-	2,196,178.00	3,108,039.00	226,663.00	1,847.00	3,982,538.00	718,334.00	2,909,675.00	354,529.00	(623,257.00) S	288,449.00	636,483.00
Marawi Resort Hotel, Incorporated	12,068.59	-	-	11,856.41	212.19	-	11,662.84	4,985.56	6,677.28	-	-	-	405.75
National Housing Authority	934,367.22	195.61	267,118.06	626,134.40	40,919.15	-	1,398,732.13	554,497.58	835,234.97	8,999.57	2,333,000.00 N	-	1,868,635.10
Partido Development Administration	44,894.33	-	111.35	32,350.15	60.62	12,372.21	129,007.32	9,311.44	83,617.71	36,078.17	10,000.00 N	-	(74,112.99)
Philippine Aerospace Dev't. Corporation	29,618.33	-	-	29,351.90	266.44	-	36,060.56	18,707.33	17,337.58	15.65	-	-	(6,442.22)
Philippine Economic Zone Authority	7,721,479.68	78,113.01	6,735,567.78	773,162.95	41,443.50	93,192.44	6,483,231.96	276,609.08	6,135,475.82	71,147.06	-	425,620.30	812,627.42
Philippine Ports Authority	6,211,973.00	-	-	6,018,215.51	-	193,757.49	3,241,056.69	955,286.39	2,183,135.70	102,634.60	-	302,676.47	2,668,239.63
Philippine National Construction Corporation	943,442.00	-	938,803.00	-	4,639.00	-	1,908,493.00	-	1,345,691.00	562,802.00	-	-	(965,051.00)
PNCC Traffic Control Products Corporation	54,499.17	-	-	54,487.31	11.86	-	55,418.07	7,693.02	47,382.24	342.82	-	-	(918.90)
PNCC Skyway Corporation	406,515.09	-	381,147.01	793.00	24,575.08	-	378,584.10	223,811.99	149,714.09	5,058.02	-	3,826.54	24,104.44
Philippine Reclamation Authority	203,030.05	-	37,447.37	158,136.20	7,255.21	191.27	274,557.02	55,620.12	116,532.51	102,404.39	-	3,930.90	(75,457.87)
PEA Toliway Corporation	479,490.03	-	473,628.47	-	5,861.56	-	87,530.27	41,655.03	45,864.14	11.10	-	-	391,959.77
Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority	1,926,652.56	-	571,419.67	992,619.44	116,949.73	245,663.72	2,159,688.56	372,611.12	1,528,200.26	258,877.18	-	-	(233,036.00)
Freeport Services Corporation	527,250.08	-	251,111.54	258,003.81	18,134.72	-	515,845.05	284,338.33	231,506.72	-	-	5,101.25	6,303.78
Sugar Regulatory Administration	215,049.44	122,214.24	31,752.29	8,370.65	52,712.26	-	294,007.28	181,823.06	112,139.86	44.36	30,000.00 N	-	(48,957.84)
Philippine Sugar Corporation	352,870.88	-	-	-	352,870.88	-	120,290.86	2,034.68	12,711.44	105,544.74			232,580.02
Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority	10,054.79	658.50	-	1,672.28	7,724.00	-	65,282.55	25,667.30	39,615.26	-	30,000.00 N	-	(25,227.77)
Agricultural, Trading and Promotional	43,485,090.42	341,033.68	2,627,931.62	36,691,254.98	2,892,166.98	932,703.16	60,305,956.08	4,725,971.63	49,788,755.10	5,791,229.35	6,008,257.61	21,741.67	(10,834,349.72)
Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions	118,956.10		97,262.80		21,693.30		180,037.23	27,357.42	152,605.30	74.50	93,000.00 N		31,918.87
Cottage Industry Technology Center	7,919.72		5,506.63	209.14	2,203.95		20,000.77	11,334.66	8,666.12		13,000.00 N		918.95
Food Terminal, Inc	387,660.34	2,518.45	39,933.60	303,400.18	31,336.05	10,472.05	317,019.62	167,777.65	129,989.04	19,252.93		21,318.58	49,322.14
Human Settlements Dev't. Corporation	42,683.50		2,407.86	19,129.19	21,346.46		27,775.97	5,903.18	21,872.51	0.28			15,107.53
National Agri-Business Corporation	86,647.41		7,014.50		79,632.91		83,066.50	5,011.72	4,216.13	73,838.65			3,580.91
Philippine Agricultural Dev't and Commercial Corporation	183.54		131.96		51.58		229.97	20.00	209.97				(46.43)
Philippine Genetics, Inc.	235.67				235.67		1,806.98	90.00	1,716.98				(1,571.31)
ZNAC Rubber Estate Corporation	18,362.58			18,143.08	205.49	14.00	18,183.22	4,575.04	13,505.13	103.06		136.46	42.89
Livelihood Corporation	20,171.13		2,014.60	16,689.35	1,467.19		116,337.02	9,994.32	106,316.73	25.98			(96,165.89)
Northern Foods Corporation	112,883.86			113,097.51	(213.65)		182,073.79	11,255.13	104,045.37	66,773.29			(69,189.93)
National Dairy Authority	14,617.36		343.78	144.89	14,128.69		81,348.15	43,207.49	36,108.76	2,031.90	87,200.00 N		20,469.20
National Food Authority	28,721,667.43	96,291.72	49,997.94	26,613,652.54	1,145,525.27	814,199.95	44,509,349.72	1,467,946.10	38,352,596.54	4,688,807.07	4,811,011.25 N		(10,976,671.04)
National Irrigation Administration	1,631,498.73		1,066,910.62	239,837.31	324,327.40	423.40	2,426,675.70	1,229,854.68	1,184,031.29	12,789.73	14,115.07 N		(781,061.90)
NIA Consult, Inc	19,561.42		19,140.67		386.29	34.47	18,742.47	4,596.98	14,145.49			286.64	532.32
National Tobacco Administration	34,432.94	28,448.77	1,790.90	1,090.08	3,103.20		209,734.47	157,448.44	52,251.99	34.04	241,555.00 N		66,253.48
Natural Resources Dev't. Corporation	26,794.05			7,572.67	19,221.18		105,314.48	12,984.87	89,276.43	3,053.18	77,886.29 N		(634.14)
Bukidnon Forests, Inc.	14,806.90			14,650.16	156.74		24,228.15	5,813.98	18,414.17				(9,421.25)
Philippine Coconut Authority	236,855.08	157,030.52	12,434.71	16,042.14	51,058.19	289.53	451,901.19	283,095.45	166,790.28	2,015.47	226,330.00 N		11,283.89
Philippine Commission on the Promotion and Dev't. of Sports SCUBA Diving	481.65		467.91		13.74		608.87	25.00	583.64	0.24			(127.22)
Philippine Convention & Visitors Corporation	6,032.46	1,401.61	411.00	360.00	3,859.85		67,361.47	35,811.32	31,384.60	165.54	64,800.00 N		3,470.99
Philippine Fisheries Development Authority	466,137.22	53,342.60	75,163.46	313,407.49	7,219.51	17,004.17	433,524.17	188,683.20	243,697.49	1,143.48	38,860.00 N		71,473.05
Philippine International Trading Corporation	338,730.83		44,918.17	285,150.50	8,662.16		383,402.72	44,506.23	338,423.36	473.13	100,000.00 G		55,328.11
PITC-Pharma, Incorporated	32,318.28			29,812.94	2,505.33		46,597.63	5,782.42	31,531.12	9,284.09			(14,279.35)
Philippine Rice Research Institute	54,859.52			39,178.15	15,648.34	33.03	289,668.69	92,872.67	196,510.65	285.37	240,000.00 N		5,190.82
Philippine Tourism Authority	9,577,781.07		90,508.60	8,659,687.45	738,959.25	88,625.76	8,775,104.70	620,591.78	8,121,872.67	32,640.05	500.00 N		803,176.36
Quedan & Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation	1,512,611.63		1,111,571.91		399,432.92	1,606.81	1,535,862.42	289,431.90	367,993.14	878,437.38			(23,250.79)
Social, Cultural and Scientific	34,178,028.02	9,926.62	282,093.08	28,356,059.09	5,527,907.40	2,041.84	20,420,044.06	8,093,277.29	12,195,370.06	131,396.69	(10,865,226.36)	64,667.63	2,828,089.97
Cultural Center of the Philippines	110,876.44	-	4,261.24	101,976.83	3,108.82	1,529.56	282,906.73	87,718.10	195,173.64	14.99	144,486.37 N	-	(27,543.92)
Development Academy of the Philippines	159,439.65	-	82,981.01	63,012.20	13,446.44	-	181,478.18	61,372.63	120,105.55	-	23,069.00 N	-	1,030.47
Lung Center of the Philippines	309,182.98	-	1,686.90	303,869.60	3,626.49	-	450,563.55	137,339.92	313,223.63	-	207,560.00 N	-	66,179.43
National Kidney and Transplant Institute	1,229,903.89	-	3,355.87	1,210,115.14	16,432.89	-	1,345,765.48	257,294.72	1,088,470.77	-	185,065.80 N	-	69,204.21
Nayong Pilipino Foundation, Inc.	38,254.07	-	-	24,084.68	14,169.39	-	31,535.81	1,922.64	29,613.18	-	-	-	6,718.26
Occupational Safety and Health Center	10,323.46	-	3,767.12	2,001.36	4,554.98	-	70,584.59	35,346.07	35,232.43	6.09	33,756.22 G	-	(26,504.91)
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration	2,062,606.74	-	-	-	2,062,606.74	-	910,715.29	332,903.16	547,090.61	30,721.52	-	-	1,151,891.45
People's Television Network, Inc.	184,423.13	-	-	181,671.45	2,751.68	-	305,500.01	167,784.43	136,924.84	790.75	75,204.65 N	-	(45,872.23)
Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation	25,399,500.86	-	-	22,491,312.89	2,908,187.97	-	11,774,059.25	5,556,923.19	6,183,395.91	33,740.15	(11,976,519.72) S	-	1,648,921.89
Philippine Center for Economic Development	8,463.24	-	-	1,737.06	6,726.17	-	7,559.45	1,146.79	6,412.66	-	-	-	903.79
Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office	2,379,583.40	6,008.82	7,515.51	2,015,470.95	350,588.12	-	2,312,204.15	701,457.22	1,594,254.17	16,492.76	-	-	67,379.25
Philippine Children's Medical Center	254,372.01	-	-	229,991.12	24,380.89	-	439,804.12	238,434.92	201,369.20	-	226,000.00 N	-	40,567.89
Philippine Heart Center	1,587,825.53	-	-	1,581,451.42	5,861.84	512.28	1,716,691.26	406,814.19	1,306,716.76	3,160.31	161,151.32 N	-	32,285.59
Philippine Institute for Development Studies	33,928.02	-	-	120.28	33,807.74	-	45,482.89	27,969.04	17,512.72	1.13	15,000.00 N	-	3,445.13
Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care	35,871.98	-	-	30,243.67	5,628.31	-	62,857.75	27,411.22	35,435.81	10.73	40,000.00 N	-	13,014.23
Philippine Retirement Authority	283,570.70	3,917.80	148,595.50	119,000.46	12,056.95	-	99,610.55	13,873.78	85,731.01	5.76	-	64,667.63	119,292.52
Technology and Livelihood Resource Center	89,901.92	-	29,929.94	-	59,971.98	-	382,724.99	37,565.28	298,707.19	46,452.51	-	-	(292,823.07)
GRAND TOTAL	718,733,824.24	726,318.44	21,089,960.22	537,287,473.52	58,481,684.87	101,148,387.19	546,733,681.48	51,300,583.74	435,230,879.64	60,202,218.09	917,177.43	4,342,279.56	168,575,040.62

Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off.

Notes:

1. The financial information presented in this report were generated from financial statements of 408 out of 601 GOCCs. Of the 408 GOCCs, 274 were water districts.

   The Consolidated Balance Sheet showed total assets of P 5,274.51 billion, total liabilities of P3,954.52 billion, total deferred credits of P56.55 billion and total equity of P1,263.43 billion. Compared with FY 2005 restated figures, Assets, Liabilities and Equity registered growth of P556.20 billion or 11.79 percent, P331.89 billion or 9.16 percent and P228.26 billion or 22.05 percent, respectively, while deferred credits posted a decrease of P3.95 billion or 6.54 percent.

2. Deferred Credits pertain to collections for income not yet earned, services not yet rendered and goods not yet delivered. HDMF accounted for 21.93 percent or P12.41 billion of the total while NIA accounted for 20.41 percent or P11.52 billion of the total.

3. The Central Bank - Board of Liquidator's (CB-BOL) is the juridical entity mandated to retain and administer, dispose of and liquidate the assets and liabilities of the then Central Bank of the Philippines not transferred to or assumed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

   CB-BOL deficits of P411.89 billion consist of suspense assets written-off in FY 2003 amounting to P320.79 billion and P91.10 billion accumulated losses from operations and foreign exchange fluctuations.

4. The overall operations of GOCCs generated net income of P168.58 billion in FY 2006, an increase of P2.98 billion or 1.80 percent from P165.59 billion in FY 2005. Gross Income of P718.73 billion showed an increase of P38.59 billion or 5.67 percent. Business income was the major source of income with P537.29 billion representing 74.76 percent of the total. The balance of 25.24 percent comprises of Gain/Premiums - P101.15 billion or 14.07 percent, Other Income - P58.48 billion or 8.14 percent, Service Income - P21.09 billion or 2.93 percent and Permits and Licenses - P0.73 billion or 0.10 percent.

5. Total subsidy from NG (N) - P 13.35 billion
   Total subsidy from GOCCs (G) - 0.17 billion
   Share of NG (12.60 billion)
   Net Amount P 0.92 billion

6. Net Loss of CB-BOL in FY 2006 was primarily due to loss on foreign exchange fluctuations of P14.47 billion and interest expense on foreign borrowings of P1.44 billion.

7. Business Income of GSIS consists of GSIS-SIF income from members contribution - P38.59 billion, interest on premium arrearages - P0.48 billion and interest on loans - P15.28 billion that totalled P54.36 billion and GSIS-AF business income from insurance premium - P6.70 billion and interest on premium arrearages and revenue from loans - P0.18 billion which totalled P6.88 billion.

8. SSS Business Income includes members contribution of P52.54 billion and other business income of P12.11 billion.

9. Significant amount of net loss of NFA was due to higher procurement price of rice, sugar and cereals over its selling price which is mandated by law.

Legend:
N - Subsidy from National Government
G - Subsidy from GOCCs/Affiliates
S - Share of National Government

Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON AUDIT

Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

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REPORT ON FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

National Government Agencies of the Republic of the Philippines

FISCAL YEAR 2006

(in thousand pesos)

Department/Office	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses									
					Operating Expenses								
	Total Assets	Total Liabilities and Deferred Credits	Total Equity	Income [2]	Personal Services	MOOE	Financial Expenses	Total Expenses	Net Income/ (Loss) Before Subsidy	Subsidy From/ (To)	Net Income/(Loss) After Subsidy	Gain/(Loss)	Net Income/ (Loss)
Legislative Branch	951,596.20	129,600.84	821,995.36	-	2,149,046.11	3,055,244.84	-	5,204,290.95	(5,204,290.95)	5,178,903.83	(25,387.12)	(0.64)	(25,387.75)
Congress of the Philippines	951,596.20	129,600.84	821,995.36	-	2,149,046.11	3,055,244.84	-	5,204,290.95	(5,204,290.95)	5,178,903.83	(25,387.12)	(0.64)	(25,387.75)
Senate	158,517.26	14,166.87	144,350.38	-	690,775.04	755,641.25		1,446,416.29	(1,446,416.29)	1,442,209.26	(4,207.03)	-	(4,207.03)
Senate Electoral Tribunal	7,651.42	543.27	7,108.16		43,237.37	17,024.77		60,262.15	(60,262.15)	60,509.82	247.68		247.68
House of Representatives	719,222.61	92,074.35	627,148.25		1,283,050.03	2,102,811.93		3,385,861.96	(3,385,861.96)	3,364,370.53	(21,491.43)	-	(21,491.43)
House Electoral Tribunal	11,341.08	7,167.34	4,173.74		44,944.09	33,819.26		78,763.35	(78,763.35)	78,475.49	(287.86)	(0.64)	(288.50)
Commission on Appointment	54,863.84	15,649.01	39,214.83		87,039.59	145,947.62		232,987.21	(232,987.21)	233,338.74	351.53		351.53
Executive Branch	2,550,735,836.51	4,204,407,771.83	(1,653,671,935.32)	1,005,082,608.53	300,787,824.84	103,972,216.96	322,697,663.16	727,457,704.96	277,624,903.57	(237,957,365.39)	39,667,538.18	77,165,686.38	116,833,224.56
Office of the President	12,528,925.12	1,659,316.76	10,869,608.36	991,527.01	1,633,441.32	2,920,039.45	5,228.59	4,558,709.37	(3,567,182.36)	4,539,723.73	972,541.37	(11,496.09)	961,045.28
Office of the President - Proper	4,945,360.81	377,042.93	4,568,317.88	746,680.70	533,153.70	1,827,053.20	4.15	2,360,211.05	(1,613,530.35)	2,241,843.88	628,313.54	377.77	628,691.30
Mindanao Economic Development Council	10,155.85	4,776.75	5,379.10	105.24	24,356.57	27,250.17	11.64	51,618.39	(51,513.15)	48,163.75	(3,349.40)		(3,349.40)
North Luzon Growth Quadrangle Area	2,393.01	37.21	2,355.81	-	7,503.61	7,747.21	-	15,250.82	(15,250.82)	14,693.47	(557.35)		(557.35)
Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process	55,137.35	3,411.54	51,725.82	2,647.78	30,277.76	123,967.52	-	154,245.28	(151,597.50)	162,364.07	10,766.58		10,766.58
Presidential Anti-Graft Commission	3,974.16	19.73	3,954.43	-	15,754.95	5,224.05		20,979.00	(20,979.00)	23,653.85	2,674.85		2,674.85
Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission	241,700.17	1,840.73	239,859.45		9,521.57	512,978.09		522,499.67	(522,499.67)	531,759.37	9,259.71		9,259.71
Commission on Information and Communications Technology	53,679.10	481,053.28	(427,374.18)	-	11,642.52	27,830.76	-	39,473.29	(39,473.29)	85,020.00	45,546.71	-	45,546.71
Telecommunications Office	2,413,773.64	297,195.33	2,116,578.31	409.18	899,966.84	173,928.68	99.73	1,073,995.45	(1,073,586.26)	1,091,269.59	17,683.32	(11.50)	17,671.82
National Computer Center	621,672.28	363,811.26	257,861.02	1,818.66	69,186.34	59,337.13	2.05	128,527.53	(126,908.87)	112,597.41	(14,311.45)	-	(14,311.45)
ARMM Social Fund Project	421,523.13	13,038.88	408,484.24	25.82	10,017.54	116,087.75	1.20	126,106.50	(126,080.68)	228,358.33	102,277.65	(11,834.50)	90,443.16
Davao Integrated Development Program	49,782.05	48,821.81	960.25	-	-	386.17	-	386.17	(386.17)	-	(386.17)	-	(386.17)
National Livelihood Support Fund	3,709,773.56	68,207.31	3,641,566.24	240,039.63	22,057.91	38,248.50	5,109.82	65,416.24	174,623.39	-	174,623.39	(27.86)	174,595.53
Office of the Vice-President	18,885.48	517.05	18,368.43	412.61	27,150.65	44,032.14	-	71,182.78	(70,770.18)	69,025.56	(1,744.62)	(228.01)	(1,972.63)
Office of the Secretary	18,885.48	517.05	18,368.43	412.61	27,150.65	44,032.14	-	71,182.78	(70,770.18)	69,025.56	(1,744.62)	(228.01)	(1,972.63)
Agrarian Reform	12,311,632.60	1,603,168.11	10,708,464.50	8,753.12	3,985,170.96	3,211,859.22	342.38	7,197,372.56	(7,188,619.44)	9,180,076.17	1,991,456.73	(5,483.46)	1,985,973.27
Office of the Secretary	12,311,632.60	1,603,168.11	10,708,464.50	8,753.12	3,985,170.96	3,211,859.22	342.38	7,197,372.56	(7,188,619.44)	9,180,076.17	1,991,456.73	(5,483.46)	1,985,973.27
Agriculture	98,394,887.49	9,486,279.65	88,908,607.84	268,860.26	2,929,321.08	5,124,853.58	2,340.03	8,056,514.69	(7,787,654.43)	14,940,822.73	7,153,168.30	8,197.89	7,161,366.19
Office of the Secretary	78,055,363.69	6,033,847.96	72,021,515.73	179,329.18	2,134,308.89	3,765,163.34	596.27	5,900,068.50	(5,720,739.32)	12,742,333.36	7,021,594.04	(29,414.01)	6,992,180.03
Agricultural Credit Policy Council	2,415,902.96	62,967.78	2,352,935.18	15,481.05	12,717.47	5,845.56	1,532.43	20,095.47	(4,614.41)	18,462.56	13,848.15	-	13,848.15
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources	3,759,987.13	261,588.80	3,498,398.33	493.18	331,987.78	1,048,908.97	33.31	1,380,930.07	(1,380,436.89)	1,352,228.49	(28,208.40)	(361.31)	(28,569.71)
Bureau of Postharvest Research and Extension	90,643.20	28,791.64	61,851.56	-	43,487.04	21,621.94	-	65,108.98	(65,108.98)	56,648.16	(8,460.81)		(8,460.81)
Cotton Development Administration	134,090.76	521,244.93	(387,154.17)	448.41	38,902.87	13,915.44	22.61	52,840.91	(52,392.50)	45,339.43	(7,053.07)		(7,053.07)
Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority	310,857.28	3,478.08	307,379.20	38,101.68	25,330.73	15,231.95	-	40,562.69	(2,461.00)	37,890.49	35,429.49		35,429.49
Fiber Industry Development Authority	66,158.31	10,034.07	56,124.24	0.73	138,573.35	37,177.23		175,750.58	(175,749.85)	172,949.89	(2,799.96)		(2,799.96)
Livestock Development Council	28,692.99	19,545.40	9,147.59	1,554.18	8,383.86	1,886.78		10,252.64	(8,698.45)	9,840.26	1,141.81	(91.14)	1,050.67
National Agricultural and Fishery Council	12,483,043.19	2,374,323.96	10,108,719.23	15,853.18	40,910.55	39,092.06		80,002.61	(64,149.44)	162,913.01	98,763.57	-	98,763.57
National Meat Inspection Service	195,080.53	60,066.82	135,013.71	-	100,064.73	38,801.33	-	138,866.07	(138,866.07)	135,349.73	(3,516.34)	-	(3,516.34)
Philippine Carabao Center	855,087.46	110,390.21	744,677.24	17,598.66	54,673.81	137,206.96	155.41	192,036.18	(174,437.52)	206,867.33	32,429.81	38,064.36	70,494.17
Budget and Management	5,496,609.30	6,248,897.84	(752,288.54)	191,475.13	5,814,862.56	253,003.64	73.44	6,067,939.64	(5,876,464.51)	12,441,948.92	6,565,484.42	(40,201.20)	6,525,283.22
Office of the Secretary	2,989,890.54	4,136,077.82	(1,146,187.28)	6,338.98	5,777,405.81	199,269.85	22.71	5,976,698.37	(5,970,359.38)	12,441,948.92	6,471,589.54	(32,800.41)	6,438,989.14
Procurement Service	2,506,718.76	2,112,820.03	393,898.74	185,136.15	37,455.76	53,733.79	50.73	91,241.28	93,894.87	-	93,894.87	(7,600.79)	86,294.08
Education	49,320,321.68	10,281,153.74	39,039,167.94	438,245.99	106,256,925.70	9,446,656.35	10,864.13	115,714,446.18	(115,276,200.19)	118,500,094.06	3,223,893.87	(6,936.83)	3,216,955.04
Office of the Secretary	49,292,828.09	10,277,675.91	39,014,952.19	438,245.99	106,236,856.69	9,419,603.82	10,864.13	115,667,324.65	(115,229,078.66)	118,453,676.63	3,224,597.97	(6,936.83)	3,217,659.14
National Book Development Board	3,029.00	882.83	2,146.16		9,768.90	6,972.51		16,741.41	(16,741.41)	16,482.94	(258.47)		(258.47)
Philippine High School for the Arts	24,464.59	2,395.00	22,069.58		10,300.11	20,080.02		30,380.12	(30,380.12)	29,934.49	(445.63)		(445.63)
State Universities and Colleges [1]	60,501,536.73	12,336,041.59	48,165,495.14	6,603,445.13	16,886,332.95	6,055,429.73	54,571.73	22,996,334.41	(16,392,889.28)	18,125,302.08	1,732,412.80	52,664.33	1,785,077.13
National Capital Region	32,351,905.32	8,679,184.48	23,672,720.83	1,700,970.74	5,483,910.70	2,051,600.78	26,841.97	7,562,353.45	(5,861,382.72)	6,253,382.40	391,999.77	58,909.41	450,909.18
Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology	257,357.29	19,290.11	238,067.18	16,289.48	85,433.27	29,034.32		114,467.58	(98,178.11)	96,982.40	(1,195.70)		(1,195.70)
Marikina Polytechnic College	151,491.53	670.54	150,821.00	11,178.93	40,102.66	7,119.13		47,221.80	(36,042.87)	43,618.13	7,575.26		7,575.26
Philippine Normal University	515,085.53	93,558.09	421,527.44	86,401.31	225,037.07	108,596.14		333,633.21	(267,231.90)	321,692.36	54,460.46	(436.81)	54,023.65
Philippine State College of Aeronautics	182,732.59	4,938.39	177,794.20	42,280.57	46,951.58	34,064.42	8.00	81,023.99	(38,743.42)	49,307.81	10,564.38	-	10,564.38
Polytechnic University of the Philippines	1,397,091.56	91,175.73	1,305,915.83	129,747.20	546,062.91	156,548.51	-	702,611.42	(572,864.22)	578,030.35	5,166.13	59,179.81	64,345.94
Rizal Technological University	410,442.93	53,278.38	357,164.56	155,069.04	164,377.90	96,966.74	0.30	261,344.94	(106,275.90)	146,392.20	40,116.30	(2.69)	40,113.61
Technological University of the Philippines	82,379.84	6,398.91	75,980.93	30,247.18	44,875.49	19,459.32	-	64,334.81	(34,087.63)	48,917.92	14,830.30	-	14,830.30
University of the Philippines System	29,755,324.05	8,409,874.34	20,945,449.71	1,249,757.03	4,331,069.82	1,599,812.21	26,833.67	5,957,715.70	(4,707,958.68)	4,968,441.31	260,482.63	169.10	260,651.73
Region I	1,659,611.04	330,455.15	1,329,155.89	239,443.90	902,506.05	291,637.96	4,329.26	1,198,473.28	(959,029.37)	1,023,980.21	64,950.83	(1,019.76)	63,931.07
Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University	403,058.30	179,187.33	223,870.97	64,008.72	295,834.02	72,299.05	4,320.00	372,453.07	(308,444.35)	326,420.61	17,976.26	(900.35)	17,075.91
Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College	163,352.83	10,626.03	152,726.79	13,960.45	72,845.33	10,450.82		83,296.15	(69,335.70)	74,921.57	5,585.87	-	5,585.87
Mariano Marcos State University	236,145.88	61,912.25	174,233.62	49,917.64	216,287.79	80,936.84		297,224.63	(247,306.99)	249,700.46	2,393.48	8.87	2,402.35
Pangasinan State University	395,954.41	17,827.87	378,126.54	62,347.56	165,061.94	66,304.49	8.97	231,375.39	(169,027.84)	197,404.59	28,376.75		28,376.75
University of Northern Philippines	461,099.62	60,901.67	400,197.96	49,209.53	152,476.96	61,646.78	0.29	214,124.03	(164,914.51)	175,532.97	10,618.47	(128.28)	10,490.19
Cordillera Administrative Region	5,286,096.45	82,283.43	5,203,813.01	145,887.51	426,350.15	151,812.70	154.17	578,317.02	(432,429.51)	475,353.92	42,924.41	-	42,924.41
Abra State Institute of Science and Technology	561,605.32	5,016.17	556,590.15	14,761.82	51,647.83	13,038.60	-	64,686.43	(49,924.61)	60,559.90	10,635.28		10,635.28
Apayao State College	43,038.28	1,574.03	41,464.25	5,659.51	25,975.40	10,071.94	-	36,047.34	(30,387.83)	31,542.75	1,154.92		1,154.92
Benguet State University	4,298,215.09	42,921.32	4,255,293.76	79,996.23	192,977.72	56,655.89	5.85	249,639.46	(169,643.24)	199,365.39	29,722.15		29,722.15
Ifugao State College of Agriculture and Forestry	119,898.29	23,831.62	96,066.67	19,792.62	64,876.79	26,232.47	148.32	91,257.58	(71,464.97)	73,714.21	2,249.25		2,249.25
Kalinga-Apayao State College	97,342.71	2,380.14	94,962.57	13,584.63	42,904.66	18,477.26		61,381.92	(47,797.29)	47,908.51	111.23		111.23
Mountain Province State Polytechnic College	165,995.75	6,560.15	159,435.60	12,092.72	47,997.76	27,336.53		75,334.29	(63,211.57)	62,263.16	(948.41)		(948.41)
Region II	1,220,750.80	84,585.49	1,136,165.32	215,062.44	679,900.83	166,800.49	3.28	846,704.61	(631,642.17)	731,533.10	99,890.93	(40.66)	99,850.27
Batanes State College	6,140.37	-	6,140.37	2,055.84	9,320.68	2,228.50	2.14	11,551.32	(9,495.48)	9,829.30	333.82	(12.13)	321.69
Cagayan State University	528,856.52	49,449.12	479,407.40	76,396.13	214,749.54	30,874.75	0.84	245,625.13	(169,229.00)	237,069.50	67,840.49	15.64	67,856.13
Isabela State University	402,042.96	7,786.70	394,256.26	104,212.54	296,993.85	73,924.19		370,918.03	(266,705.50)	299,592.35	32,886.85		32,886.85
Nueva Vizcaya State University	200,469.43	17,601.90	182,867.53	26,683.68	136,123.35	48,331.58	0.30	184,455.22	(157,771.55)	158,132.39	360.84	(44.17)	316.67
Quirino State College	83,241.53	9,747.77	73,493.76	5,714.26	22,713.43	11,441.47		34,154.90	(28,440.64)	26,909.57	(1,531.07)		(1,531.07)
Region III	4,630,247.45	1,604,258.06	3,025,989.39	714,319.92	1,181,244.57	571,862.41	11,669.81	1,764,776.79	(1,050,456.87)	1,209,208.00	158,751.13	(4,233.08)	154,518.06
Aurora State College of Technology	84,871.66	9,760.41	75,111.25	4,720.72	23,594.74	12,341.86	7.34	35,943.94	(31,223.22)	29,207.64	(2,015.58)		(2,015.58)
Bataan Polytechnic State College	137,199.22	32,114.16	105,085.06	122,292.13	142,763.62	41,999.26	178.93	184,941.81	(62,649.68)	88,844.86	26,195.18		26,195.18
Bataan State College	55,824.13	10,368.19	45,435.94	12,363.48	22,927.79	11,741.74	351.59	35,021.11	(22,657.64)	26,372.92	3,715.28		3,715.28
Bulacan Agricultural State College	35,761.31	12,191.71	23,569.60	8,487.40	31,362.48	10,486.99	197.49	42,046.95	(33,559.55)	33,000.81	(558.74)	-	(558.74)
Bulacan State University	849,074.37	184,423.11	664,651.26	177,749.40	163,585.41	67,755.59	5,496.21	256,837.21	(79,087.81)	135,068.58	55,980.77	(17.35)	55,963.42
Central Luzon State University	847,043.33	70,381.81	776,661.52	94,054.98	193,232.70	139,307.52	6.60	332,546.92	(238,491.94)	235,661.16	(2,830.78)	(505.95)	(3,336.73)
Don Honorio Ventura College of Agriculture and Technology	136,962.32	3,729.17	133,233.14	32,620.46	68,632.80	31,441.83	-	100,074.63	(67,454.17)	75,596.73	8,142.56	-	8,142.56
Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology	395,317.99	86,717.83	308,600.16	98,194.29	134,482.29	57,661.89	2,456.84	194,603.01	(96,408.72)	151,182.32	54,773.60		54,773.60
Pampanga Agricultural College	82,473.49	12,496.95	69,976.54	17,309.73	69,801.67	28,232.12	-	98,033.79	(80,724.06)	77,580.07	(3,143.99)	(625.86)	(3,769.85)
Philippine Merchant Marine Academy	1,437,272.89	1,038,040.15	399,232.74	7,907.44	44,126.22	60,808.44	4.32	104,938.97	(97,031.53)	79,754.75	(17,276.78)		(17,276.78)
Ramon Magsaysay Technological University	192,969.57	23,141.07	169,828.50	33,280.61	89,092.42	21,011.25	-	110,103.67	(76,823.06)	94,644.49	17,821.43		17,821.43
Tarlac College of Agriculture	87,238.29	22,664.14	64,574.15	19,282.42	71,750.10	25,625.23	0.26	97,375.59	(78,093.17)	78,594.60	501.43		501.43
Tarlac State University	288,238.87	98,209.36	190,029.52	86,056.85	125,892.34	43,448.60	2,968.24	172,309.18	(86,252.32)	103,699.08	17,446.76	(3,083.92)	14,362.84
Region IV	3,400,176.91	356,743.12	3,043,433.79	834,724.02	1,231,881.81	528,888.23	6,681.79	1,767,451.84	(932,727.82)	1,185,282.24	252,554.42	(321.49)	252,232.94
Batangas State University	922,716.09	103,749.94	818,966.14	168,200.11	198,565.77	81,850.92	6,330.46	286,747.15	(118,547.04)	137,614.89	19,067.85		19,067.85
Cavite State University	637,837.18	42,131.64	595,505.53	246,550.15	188,501.97	94,843.79	1.10	283,346.87	(36,796.71)	161,913.15	125,116.43		125,116.43
Laguna State Polytechnic College	276,350.62	24,312.90	252,037.72	91,601.82	115,357.71	62,368.30	0.10	177,726.12	(86,124.30)	120,923.66	34,799.36		34,799.36
Southern Luzon Polytechnic College	247,402.83	8,056.60	239,346.23	60,584.53	111,913.27	55,103.03	3.79	167,020.10	(106,435.56)	106,112.45	(323.11)		(323.11)
University of Rizal System	298,860.36	31,117.35	267,743.01	63,271.69	181,209.90	36,769.96	94.38	218,074.24	(154,802.54)	173,881.61	19,079.07		19,079.07
Marinduque State College	90,521.24	19,414.02	71,107.23	12,578.80	40,660.32	22,248.82		62,909.14	(50,330.34)	46,775.71	(3,554.64)		(3,554.64)
Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology	62,284.04	14,195.19	48,088.85	16,439.22	55,427.14	15,921.94		71,349.08	(54,909.87)	56,835.03	1,925.16		1,925.16
Occidental Mindoro National College	129,778.52	17,280.36	112,498.16	30,796.53	69,469.22	19,872.11		89,361.33	(58,564.80)	75,217.05	16,652.25	(321.49)	16,330.76
Palawan State University	384,002.46	71,509.03	312,493.43	82,246.79	115,482.08	84,154.98	246.79	199,883.85	(117,637.06)	137,659.22	20,022.16		20,022.16
Romblon State College	141,036.07	5,436.09	135,599.97	26,499.12	79,895.30	21,141.55	5.12	101,041.97	(74,542.85)	84,375.38	9,832.53		9,832.53
Western Philippines University	209,587.51	19,540.00	190,047.51	35,955.26	75,379.12	34,612.82	0.05	109,991.99	(74,036.73)	83,974.10	9,937.37		9,937.37
Region V	1,727,152.84	230,825.61	1,496,327.23	314,915.08	849,881.74	269,946.52	228.77	1,120,057.04	(805,141.95)	915,301.48	110,159.53	(80.74)	110,078.79
Bicol University	645,729.18	43,922.00	601,807.18	135,924.93	291,133.48	70,328.55	10.50	361,472.53	(225,547.61)	304,476.05	78,928.46		78,928.46
Camarines Norte State College	178,405.35	56,622.23	121,783.12	21,548.36	87,185.75	33,436.30	3.92	120,625.97	(99,077.61)	90,965.67	(8,111.94)	(53.00)	(8,164.94)
Camarines Sur Polytechnic Colleges	192,203.68	43,818.60	148,385.08	29,866.89	61,050.21	27,324.92		88,375.12	(58,508.23)	73,859.88	15,351.65		15,351.65
Camarines Sur State Agricultural College	247,887.54	41,011.04	206,876.49	29,956.30	117,974.15	40,168.06	2.70	158,144.91	(128,188.61)	130,484.80	2,296.19		2,296.19
Catanduanes State College	140,607.15	20,861.12	119,746.03	31,205.16	120,030.02	26,824.56	206.37	147,060.94	(115,855.78)	127,809.26	11,953.47		11,953.47
Dr. Emilio B. Espinosa, Sr., Memorial State College of Agriculture and Technology	52,103.60	9,096.97	43,006.62	5,589.02	29,408.32	10,250.54	3.96	39,662.82	(34,073.80)	32,566.56	(1,507.24)		(1,507.24)
Partido State University	137,634.12	7,293.83	130,340.29	20,343.71	70,212.81	28,404.79	0.92	98,618.53	(78,274.82)	81,313.12	3,038.29		3,038.29
Sorsogon State College	132,582.21	8,199.80	124,382.41	40,480.72	72,687.00	33,208.81	0.40	106,096.21	(65,615.49)	73,826.13	8,210.64	(27.74)	8,182.90
Region VI	2,515,469.38	220,667.63	2,294,801.75	660,373.96	1,223,064.63	510,949.75	2,421.65	1,736,436.03	(1,076,062.05)	1,200,937.53	124,875.48	1.01	124,876.50
Aklan State University	202,310.09	9,865.97	192,444.12	60,590.20	108,973.55	67,029.31	7.78	176,010.64	(115,420.44)	117,292.92	1,872.48	-	1,872.48
Capiz State University	284,170.04	21,527.27	262,642.77	72,437.93	179,370.05	39,550.75	5.88	218,926.68	(146,488.75)	172,774.55	26,285.80	-	26,285.80
Carlos C. Hilado Memorial College	190,269.37	13,866.23	176,403.14	31,753.14	88,120.44	16,420.74	-	104,541.18	(72,788.04)	85,458.14	12,670.10	-	12,670.10
Guimaras State College	41,765.10	1,104.60	40,660.50	11,297.80	20,042.10	13,259.99	-	33,302.09	(22,004.29)	23,141.71	1,137.42		1,137.42
Iloilo State College of Fisheries	213,979.79	10,770.79	203,209.00	26,833.42	98,348.79	25,893.19	3.30	124,245.28	(97,411.85)	102,846.89	5,435.04		5,435.04
Negros State College of Agriculture	101,798.97	3,084.80	98,714.17	13,209.87	25,535.42	25,874.23	0.30	51,409.96	(38,200.09)	38,987.71	787.62		787.62
Northern Iloilo Polytechnic State College	144,241.56	18,278.83	125,962.73	21,382.35	133,463.03	35,149.25	-	168,612.28	(147,229.93)	138,951.18	(8,278.75)		(8,278.75)
Northern Negros State College of Science and Technology	20,190.24	1,873.29	18,316.95	35,770.05	22,998.46	9,519.61	-	32,518.07	3,251.98	539.00	3,790.98		3,790.98
Polytechnic State College of Antique	185,099.41	14,283.74	170,815.67	47,943.23	78,090.27	29,240.65	1,111.44	108,442.36	(60,499.13)	73,348.43	12,849.30	-	12,849.30
Western Visayas College of Science and Technology	230,616.77	15,687.15	214,929.62	67,103.86	134,214.88	66,952.83	-	201,167.71	(134,063.85)	145,626.44	11,562.58	-	11,562.58
West Visayas State University	901,028.05	110,324.98	790,703.07	272,052.13	333,907.63	182,059.21	1,292.95	517,259.79	(245,207.66)	301,970.56	56,762.90	1.01	56,763.91
Region VII	1,396,721.39	108,266.38	1,288,455.01	337,046.73	492,153.40	180,129.84	585.55	672,868.80	(335,822.07)	470,792.97	134,970.90	5.70	134,976.60
Cebu Normal University	167,722.97	21,251.57	146,471.40	52,901.92	60,359.51	41,352.59	-	101,712.10	(48,810.18)	60,931.99	12,121.80	-	12,121.80
Cebu State College of Science and Technology	562,944.67	41,791.00	521,153.67	138,442.64	217,422.91	62,394.51	13.76	279,831.18	(141,388.53)	185,549.34	44,160.81	3.20	44,164.01
Central Visayas State College of Agriculture, Forestry and Technology	231,654.83	27,263.21	204,591.62	52,676.42	93,030.96	21,145.06	571.80	114,747.82	(62,071.40)	94,338.35	32,266.96	2.50	32,269.46
Negros Oriental State University	343,385.51	11,536.33	331,849.19	78,070.10	100,354.94	42,404.62	-	142,759.57	(64,689.47)	106,961.16	42,271.70	-	42,271.70
Siquijor State College	90,813.40	6,424.27	84,389.14	14,955.65	20,985.08	12,833.06	-	33,818.14	(18,862.49)	23,012.12	4,149.63	-	4,149.63
Region VIII	2,348,470.33	245,805.65	2,102,664.68	354,188.00	1,084,179.89	334,293.28	1,207.32	1,419,680.50	(1,065,492.50)	1,135,125.30	69,632.79	3.21	69,636.00
Eastern Samar State University	255,504.15	28,631.46	226,872.69	47,006.45	134,727.58	35,810.45	607.48	171,145.50	(124,139.05)	145,393.51	21,254.46		21,254.46
Eastern Visayas State University	582,209.54	50,065.00	532,144.54	43,777.29	135,389.05	60,625.09	5.25	196,019.39	(152,242.10)	145,797.50	(6,444.60)		(6,444.60)
Leyte Normal University	183,673.43	32,667.48	151,005.95	33,449.10	71,435.47	29,598.06		101,033.52	(67,584.42)	71,354.12	3,769.69		3,769.69
Leyte State University	234,257.81	67,723.73	166,534.07	62,644.48	208,116.94	86,006.04		294,122.98	(231,478.50)	228,098.22	(3,380.28)	(0.85)	(3,381.13)
Naval Institute of Technology	122,218.07	8,570.53	113,647.54	32,361.18	67,818.30	16,722.77	14.71	84,555.78	(52,194.60)	56,874.28	4,679.68		4,679.68
Palompon Institute of Technology	109,801.80	14,631.14	95,170.66	25,218.20	61,403.46	20,151.21	561.96	82,116.63	(56,898.42)	60,323.02	3,424.60		3,424.60
Samar State College of Agriculture and Forestry	32,469.70	602.24	31,867.45	2,806.19	15,338.04	3,161.16		18,499.19	(15,693.00)	18,381.82	2,688.81		2,688.81
Samar State University	251,333.67	2,909.87	248,423.80	27,908.00	81,649.33	18,512.15	2.53	100,164.02	(72,256.02)	90,305.42	18,049.40		18,049.40
Southern Leyte State University	152,630.58	16,298.66	136,331.92	29,665.66	95,161.92	23,894.40	14.75	119,071.07	(89,405.42)	98,621.91	9,216.50	4.06	9,220.55
Tiburcio Tancinco Memorial Institute of Science and Technology	81,107.15	12,739.72	68,367.43	20,728.17	47,463.36	17,423.56		64,886.91	(44,158.74)	45,358.02	1,199.28		1,199.28
University of Eastern Philippines	343,264.43	10,965.82	332,298.61	28,623.28	165,676.45	22,388.41	0.64	188,065.50	(159,442.22)	174,617.47	15,175.25		15,175.25
Region IX	607,296.38	70,382.47	536,913.90	233,336.67	497,396.89	147,314.16	16.46	644,727.51	(411,390.84)	461,002.00	49,611.16	-	49,611.16
J.H. Cerilles State College	19,605.34	1,881.82	17,723.52	9,529.99	26,496.34	6,435.11	1.49	32,932.93	(23,402.94)	27,185.80	3,782.85	-	3,782.85
Jose Rizal Memorial State College	161,126.89	10,330.73	150,796.16	50,737.15	81,625.66	23,804.84	6.19	105,636.70	(54,899.55)	80,216.96	25,317.41		25,317.41
Western Mindanao State University	281,660.64	40,483.45	241,177.18

Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON AUDIT

Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

REPORT ON FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

National Government Agencies of the Republic of the Philippines

FISCAL YEAR 2006

(in thousand pesos)

I5

Department/Office	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses									
					Operating Expenses								
	Total Assets	Total Liabilities and Deferred Credits	Total Equity	Income [2]	Personal Services	MOOE	Financial Expenses	Total Expenses	Net Income/ (Loss) Before Subsidy	Subsidy From/ (To)	Net Income/(Loss) After Subsidy	Gain/(Loss)	Net Income/ (Loss)
ARMM	880,143.13	56,656.34	823,486.80	95,166.40	1,349,077.21	198,972.99	10.01	1,548,060.21	(1,452,873.81)	1,464,884.60	12,010.79	-	12,010.79
Basilan State College	77,870.56	243.40	77,627.17	14,459.81	33,456.28	13,972.96	-	47,429.24	(32,969.43)	33,707.76	738.33		738.33
Mindanao State University - Tawi-Tawi College of Technology and Oceanography	94,794.18	6,151.91	88,642.27	8,325.94	204,869.25	19,562.92		224,432.16	(216,106.22)	220,030.40	3,924.18		3,924.18
Sulu State College	55,466.69	472.87	54,993.82	19,166.39	38,396.05	18,434.07		56,830.11	(37,663.72)	34,958.16	(2,695.56)		(2,695.56)
Tawi-Tawi Regional Agricultural College	43,664.42	2,032.60	41,631.82	4,444.08	26,059.00	3,209.16		29,268.16	(24,824.08)	29,468.36	4,644.28		4,644.28
Adiong Memorial Polytechnic State College	24,865.18	832.38	24,032.80	-	8,403.77	3,120.75		11,524.53	(11,524.53)	11,524.53	-		-
Mindanao State University - Marawi	241,614.05	26,184.09	215,429.96	18,396.51	683,667.19	81,325.08		764,992.27	(746,595.76)	755,602.16	9,006.40		9,006.40
Malgo School of Arts and Trades	26,069.77	4,209.49	21,860.27	3,402.15	20,218.24	3,270.35	-	23,488.59	(20,086.44)	22,153.92	2,067.48		2,067.48
Lanao National College of Arts and Trade	4,839.86	193.84	4,646.01	668.99	18,033.34	2,071.46	0.78	20,105.58	(19,436.59)	19,521.26	84.68		84.68
Lanao del Norte Agricultural College	23,269.29	407.54	22,861.74	516.69	16,016.62	2,287.84	1.30	18,305.75	(17,789.07)	17,963.19	174.13		174.13
Mindanao State University - General Santos City	170,377.96	4,086.28	166,291.68	15,798.49	119,963.20	33,448.47	-	153,411.67	(137,613.18)	130,354.18	(7,259.00)		(7,259.00)
Mindanao State University - Maguindanao	46,265.98	4,903.74	41,362.24	4,324.32	73,350.35	3,092.46	0.10	76,442.91	(72,118.59)	74,330.28	2,211.67		2,211.67
Mindanao State University - Sulu	37,235.42	414.37	36,821.05	3,872.34	61,408.40	8,721.34		70,129.74	(66,257.40)	65,916.89	(340.51)		(340.51)
Mindanao State University - Naawan	33,809.79	6,523.83	27,285.96	1,810.69	45,235.54	6,456.12	7.83	51,699.48	(49,888.79)	49,343.51	(545.29)		(545.29)
Energy	21,233,899.43	16,396,065.38	4,837,834.04	25,970.79	168,600.49	258,905.98	-	427,506.47	(401,535.67)	520,103.26	118,567.59	-	118,567.59
Office of the Secretary	21,233,899.43	16,396,065.38	4,837,834.04	25,970.79	168,600.49	258,905.98	-	427,506.47	(401,535.67)	520,103.26	118,567.59	-	118,567.59
Environment and Natural Resources	6,376,441.37	1,229,511.97	5,146,929.39	54,165.78	4,049,784.06	1,877,899.95	381.60	6,728,065.61	(6,673,899.82)	7,344,958.65	671,058.83	(293.89)	670,764.94
Office of the Secretary	4,911,467.78	1,025,107.96	3,886,359.83	6,960.49	4,027,208.62	1,257,365.54	237.83	5,284,811.98	(5,277,831.50)	6,036,368.77	758,537.27	(238.51)	758,298.76
Environmental Management Bureau	296,532.34	38,636.40	257,695.93	37,805.89	202,165.03	180,518.56	19.70	382,703.29	(344,897.60)	366,040.36	21,142.76	-	21,142.76
Mines and Geosciences Bureau	253,477.35	58,289.78	195,187.57	6,914.17	398,207.79	136,905.94	0.77	535,114.49	(528,200.32)	534,610.77	6,410.45	(55.39)	6,355.06
National Mapping and Information Authority	914,963.89	107,277.83	807,686.06	2,465.43	222,202.63	303,109.91	123.29	525,435.83	(522,970.40)	407,938.76	(115,031.64)	-	(115,031.64)
Finance	1,660,707,890.58	4,027,410,145.76	(2,366,702,255.18)	989,331,775.04	4,370,149.96	12,806,506.43	322,570,750.27	339,747,406.65	649,584,368.38	(697,531,895.87)	(47,947,527.49)	77,248,349.61	29,300,822.12
Office of the Secretary	761,965.67	12,627.02	749,338.65	20.00	135,897.23	130,071.58	12.13	265,980.94	(265,960.94)	281,524.81	15,563.87	(207.37)	15,356.51
Bureau of Customs	7,819,425.54	8,864,989.15	(1,245,563.61)	7.15	1,130,811.59	443,017.85	1.12	1,573,830.56	(1,573,823.41)	3,617,609.87	2,043,786.46		2,043,786.46
Bureau of Internal Revenue	31,767,339.45	27,622,543.60	4,144,795.85	151.40	2,675,572.04	1,195,188.84	15,764.84	3,886,525.72	(3,886,374.32)	4,246,166.73	359,792.42	(261.72)	359,530.70
Bureau of Local Government Finance	34,671.52	30,700.71	3,970.81	126.92	30,650.68	8,317.67	-	38,968.54	(38,841.62)	38,361.73	(479.89)		(479.89)
Bureau of the Treasury [3]	1,576,139,786.96	3,960,392,504.12	(2,384,252,717.16)	988,284,893.46	279,931.09	8,613,436.32	322,554,938.06	331,448,305.47	656,836,588.00	(707,268,834.09)	(50,432,246.10)	77,289,411.86	26,857,165.76
Central Board of Assessment Appeals	1,523.25	127.31	1,395.94	-	6,713.94	1,160.61	0.38	7,894.93	(7,894.93)	7,873.27	(21.66)		(21.66)
Fiscal Incentives Review Board	33.35	0.10	33.25	-	-	100.87	-	100.87	(100.87)	113.83	12.96		12.96
Insurance Commission	97,552.79	2,662.80	94,889.99	-	60,717.07	29,625.48	5.94	90,348.50	(90,348.50)	121,825.81	31,477.32	(271.99)	31,205.32
Municipal Development Fund Office	27,831,392.28	14,243,184.84	13,588,207.44	995,110.55		2,297,764.33	22.70	2,297,787.02	(1,302,676.48)	1,350,142.52	47,466.04	(40,321.16)	7,144.87
National Tax Research Center	3,231.06	349.33	2,881.73	-	26,462.74	9,237.44		35,720.18	(35,720.18)	35,631.51	(88.67)		(88.67)
One-Stop-Shop Duty Drawback Center	27,638.03	1,791.53	25,846.51	-		1,633.39		1,633.39	(1,633.39)		(1,633.39)		(1,633.39)
Privatization and Management Office	16,328,549.14	16,213,713.21	114,835.93	45,302.69	23,373.38	55,594.86	5.09	78,973.33	(33,670.64)	28,339.96	(5,330.68)		(5,330.68)
Anti-Money Laundering Council	94,781.54	24,952.04	69,829.50	6,162.86		21,337.20		21,337.20	(15,174.34)	9,349.17	(5,825.17)		(5,825.17)
Foreign Affairs	6,998,998.18	3,873,362.17	3,125,636.01	235,247.38	3,307,327.82	2,504,349.20	12,252.37	5,823,929.38	(5,588,682.01)	6,485,999.21	897,317.20	(7,371.33)	889,945.87
Office of the Secretary	6,956,412.41	3,868,934.71	3,087,477.70	235,245.00	3,260,898.77	2,464,896.91	12,252.37	5,738,048.05	(5,502,803.05)	6,395,911.52	893,108.47	(7,293.46)	885,815.01
Commission on Filipino Overseas	12,917.52	429.75	12,487.77	-	17,730.96	25,486.33		43,217.28	(43,217.28)	45,597.75	2,380.47	(77.87)	2,302.60
Foreign Service Institute	9,158.27	2,845.15	6,313.11	2.38	24,439.91	9,211.85		33,651.76	(33,649.39)	31,690.48	(1,958.91)		(1,958.91)
Technical Cooperative Council of the Philippines	438.52	46.40	392.12	-	869.15	1,242.01		2,111.16	(2,111.16)	2,242.95	131.79		131.79
UNESCO of the Philippines	20,071.47	1,106.16	18,965.31	-	3,389.04	3,512.09		6,901.13	(6,901.13)	10,556.50	3,655.37		3,655.37
Health	23,353,481.44	3,411,375.03	19,942,106.40	3,302,630.16	7,303,701.47	5,944,969.50	536.15	13,249,207.20	(9,946,577.04)	10,232,347.04	285,769.99	(3,527.60)	282,242.40
Office of the Secretary	23,063,833.88	3,380,035.37	19,683,798.50	3,302,075.36	7,188,083.53	5,893,443.70	531.33	13,082,058.56	(9,779,983.20)	10,068,451.54	288,468.35	(2,831.29)	285,637.06
Commission on Population	259,816.97	9,796.61	250,020.36	456.65	84,494.95	32,179.20	1.22	116,675.37	(116,218.72)	111,545.76	(4,672.96)	(696.31)	(5,369.27)
National Nutrition Council	29,830.59	21,543.05	8,287.54	98.14	31,123.00	19,346.68	3.60	50,473.27	(50,375.13)	52,349.73	1,974.60		1,974.60
Interior and Local Government	28,689,407.91	4,813,766.75	23,875,641.16	702,032.53	55,700,394.19	9,314,368.90	20.46	65,014,783.54	(64,312,751.02)	65,792,282.27	1,479,531.25	(1,304.02)	1,478,227.23
Office of the Secretary	2,853,978.89	1,480,241.09	1,373,737.80	4,560.73	1,481,171.57	508,398.37	11.84	1,989,581.78	(1,985,021.06)	2,082,124.35	97,103.29	21.57	97,124.86
Bureau of Fire Protection	3,522,386.98	122,029.25	3,400,357.74	6,474.53	4,186,467.05	706,446.76		4,892,913.80	(4,886,439.27)	4,724,501.32	(161,937.95)		(161,937.95)
Bureau of Jail Management and Penology	625,316.10	42,792.13	582,523.98	16.71	2,023,437.53	1,184,449.10		3,207,886.63	(3,207,869.92)	3,203,451.95	(4,417.98)	(567.35)	(4,985.33)
Local Government Academy	24,026.89	8,932.78	15,094.11	621.06	11,922.19	26,066.75		37,988.94	(37,367.88)	36,876.95	(490.93)		(490.93)
National Police Commission	2,275,956.24	218,323.32	2,057,632.91	68.36	1,228,745.79	125,566.32		1,354,312.10	(1,354,243.75)	1,331,950.27	(22,293.48)	0.06	(22,293.42)
Philippine National Police	18,960,310.13	2,924,468.86	16,035,841.27	690,291.14	45,387,848.83	6,541,871.22	8.61	52,929,728.67	(52,239,437.52)	53,759,113.82	1,519,676.30	(758.30)	1,518,918.00
Philippine Public Safety College	427,432.67	16,979.32	410,453.35	-	380,801.23	221,570.38		602,371.62	(602,371.62)	654,263.61	51,892.00		51,892.00
Justice	7,682,259.66	1,302,884.78	6,379,374.89	70,179.68	4,138,869.83	1,520,910.36	90.04	5,659,870.22	(5,589,690.54)	5,800,828.60	211,138.06	(3,721.03)	207,417.03
Office of the Secretary	3,007,616.99	270,551.93	2,737,065.06	-	1,464,678.93	259,382.01	0.33	1,724,061.27	(1,724,061.27)	1,794,832.93	70,771.66		70,771.66
Bureau of Corrections	163,751.68	52,853.11	111,098.57	60,505.47	449,288.86	604,192.80		1,053,481.66	(992,976.19)	1,031,686.50	38,710.31		38,710.31
Bureau of Immigration	852,554.13	252,523.20	600,030.93	403.10	203,549.13	109,904.23		313,453.36	(313,050.26)	332,677.02	19,626.76	(3,711.37)	15,915.39
Commission on the Settlement of Land Problems	1,469.05	553.35	915.70	-	19,994.58	2,034.21		22,028.78	(22,028.78)	22,034.67	5.89		5.89
Land Registration Authority	2,434,305.05	375,675.66	2,058,629.39	1,171.08	489,272.25	132,419.10		621,691.35	(620,520.27)	677,023.99	56,503.72	(9.36)	56,494.36
National Bureau of Investigation	848,644.33	281,166.56	567,477.77	8,100.00	444,718.23	260,997.79	89.71	705,805.73	(697,705.73)	703,031.95	5,326.22		5,326.22
Office of the Government Corporate Counsel	55,870.42	48,568.48	7,301.94	0.03	42,800.41	8,233.77		51,034.18	(51,034.15)	51,264.15	230.00		230.00
Office of the Solicitor General	59,193.60	12,006.96	47,186.64	-	119,372.57	48,864.44		168,237.01	(168,237.01)	173,465.65	5,228.63		5,228.63
Parole and Probation Administration	162,448.03	4,743.04	157,704.99		339,589.29	39,949.73		379,539.03	(379,539.03)	379,892.37	353.34	(0.30)	353.04
Public Attorney's Office	96,406.40	4,442.49	91,963.91	-	565,605.57	54,932.27		620,537.84	(620,537.84)	634,919.37	14,381.52		14,381.52
Labor and Employment	6,770,172.23	1,486,087.68	5,284,084.56	293,051.57	2,052,407.51	2,038,021.17	2,177.64	4,092,606.32	(3,799,554.74)	3,846,643.75	47,089.00	567.31	47,656.31
Office of the Secretary	1,974,719.36	233,694.44	1,741,024.92	88,855.08	682,312.92	485,453.08	1,917.69	1,169,683.68	(1,080,828.60)	1,179,718.04	98,889.43	775.25	99,664.69
Bureau of Rural Workers	279,799.11	238,986.42	40,812.70	10,639.41	4,478.54	5,669.37	53.18	10,201.09	438.32	-	438.32	-	438.32
Institute of Labor Studies	3,392.03	2,111.25	1,280.78	-	12,535.67	5,400.44	-	17,936.11	(17,936.11)	17,588.89	(347.22)	-	(347.22)
National Conciliation and Mediation Board	15,787.37	1,125.87	14,661.50	436.40	58,752.49	35,377.85	1.50	94,131.84	(93,695.44)	92,062.64	(1,632.81)	(97.22)	(1,730.03)
National Maritime Polytechnic	300,431.81	3,887.15	296,544.66	4,808.22	33,423.46	42,426.04	2.45	75,851.94	(71,043.73)	58,864.69	(12,179.04)	-	(12,179.04)
National Wages and Productivity Commission	26,389.90	4,900.12	21,489.78	22.40	60,596.23	33,293.62	0.60	93,890.45	(93,868.05)	92,170.24	(1,697.81)	(4.43)	(1,702.24)
Philippine Overseas Employment Administration	446,771.63	523,197.91	(76,426.28)	-	135,483.53	90,727.57	23.17	226,234.27	(226,234.27)	210,766.65	(15,467.62)	-	(15,467.62)
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority	3,722,881.02	478,184.52	3,244,696.50	188,290.06	1,064,824.66	1,339,673.20	179.07	2,404,676.92	(2,216,386.86)	2,195,472.60	(20,914.26)	(106.29)	(21,020.55)
National Defense	95,472,095.88	7,021,417.07	88,450,678.81	613,118.03	64,059,924.44	11,362,242.14	1,898.04	76,224,064.61	(75,610,946.58)	79,347,105.49	3,736,158.91	(129.68)	3,736,029.23
Office of the Secretary	354,998.50	182,779.00	172,219.50	9.18	90,573.82	141,377.19	-	231,951.01	(231,941.82)	251,159.44	19,217.61	-	19,217.61
Government Arsenal	208,430.04	1,296.53	207,133.51	739.72	168,703.13	43,661.24		212,364.37	(211,624.64)	261,841.76	50,217.12		50,217.12
National Defense College of the Philippines	79,958.29	1,193.04	78,765.24	1,945.89	23,329.50	20,235.86	-	43,565.36	(41,619.47)	42,686.88	1,067.41		1,067.41
Office of Civil Defense	456,332.27	68,419.24	387,913.03	155,259.33	67,809.22	110,608.44	136.82	178,554.48	(22,295.15)	207,864.90	185,569.75		185,569.75
Philippine Veterans Affairs Office	1,995,573.37	922,418.91	1,073,154.46	401.26	14,849,033.53	312,871.55	11.36	15,161,916.44	(15,161,515.19)	15,112,130.00	(49,385.18)	-	(49,385.18)
Military Shrines Service	28,596.82	1,413.09	27,183.73	-	10,883.63	9,986.56	5.52	20,875.70	(20,875.70)	19,995.91	(879.80)	(221.38)	(1,101.18)
Veterans Memorial Medical Center	545,200.41	23,739.72	521,460.69	96,592.90	379,564.81	262,203.50	-	641,768.31	(545,175.41)	595,117.07	49,941.66	135.47	50,077.13
Philippine Army	22,664,036.13	2,235,498.84	20,428,537.30	841.54	24,060,461.91	3,757,125.11	-	27,817,587.02	(27,816,745.48)	27,032,158.38	(784,587.10)	(35.77)	(784,622.87)
Philippine Air Force	29,396,694.59	1,067,597.62	28,329,096.97	35,072.15	4,344,833.74	1,886,979.75	175.34	6,231,988.83	(6,196,916.68)	7,458,761.72	1,261,845.03	-	1,261,845.03
Philippine Navy	10,922,922.99	288,351.49	10,634,571.50	9,137.05	6,778,047.62	1,958,479.70	-	8,736,527.32	(8,727,390.26)	9,431,478.60	704,088.32	(8.00)	704,080.32
General Headquarters - Armed Forces of the Philippines	27,022,601.58	2,093,664.87	24,928,936.71	221,986.30	13,113,973.24	2,193,144.85	1,589.00	15,308,687.08	(15,086,700.78)	17,055,047.94	1,968,347.16	-	1,968,347.16
Presidential Security Group	545,839.60	12,017.65	533,821.95	3,147.74	78,356.32	155,772.31		234,128.63	(230,980.89)	459,635.19	228,654.30		228,654.30
Philippine Military Academy	515,749.17	32,890.43	482,858.74	35,058.15	366,941.72	115,401.06		482,342.78	(447,284.63)	477,291.50	30,006.87		30,006.87
AFP Medical Center	735,162.13	90,136.64	645,025.49	51,926.82	527,412.26	394,395.01	-	921,807.27	(869,880.45)	941,936.21	72,055.75	-	72,055.75
Public Works and Highways	279,445,214.47	69,856,541.83	209,588,672.64	134,850.67	5,154,068.87	11,006,528.77	231.90	16,160,829.54	(16,025,978.87)	67,727,682.74	51,701,703.87	98.87	51,701,802.74
Office of the Secretary	279,378,716.16	69,854,923.85	209,523,792.31	134,850.67	5,150,311.91	10,987,141.78	231.90	16,137,685.58	(16,002,834.91)	67,644,014.52	51,641,179.61	98.87	51,641,278.48
Road Board	66,498.31	1,617.98	64,880.33	-	3,756.96	19,387.00		23,143.96	(23,143.96)	83,668.22	60,524.26		60,524.26
Science and Technology	6,616,314.55	1,566,114.25	5,050,200.30	25,295.44	1,382,813.26	947,547.00	94.27	2,330,454.53	(2,305,159.09)	2,813,991.41	508,832.32	(2,643.89)	506,188.43
Office of the Secretary	1,571,225.13	82,798.52	1,488,426.61	5,217.22	218,255.55	132,348.75	-	350,604.30	(345,387.07)	599,052.76	253,665.69	-	253,665.69
Advanced Science and Technology Institute	118,648.34	67,768.26	50,880.07	0.24	17,425.61	12,643.13	0.10	30,068.85	(30,068.60)	24,727.61	(5,341.00)		(5,341.00)
Food and Nutrition Research Institute	141,276.60	18,832.47	122,444.12	2,623.70	52,864.50	22,298.85	0.33	75,163.68	(72,539.98)	65,293.67	(7,246.32)		(7,246.32)
Forest Products Research and Development Institute	108,874.18	14,988.19	93,885.99	-	57,213.25	17,138.87	-	74,352.12	(74,352.12)	69,820.98	(4,531.14)		(4,531.14)
Industrial Technology Development Institute	316,140.09	31,340.10	284,799.99	5,583.36	121,975.35	31,163.35	-	153,138.70	(147,555.34)	139,003.79	(8,551.54)		(8,551.54)
Metals Industry Research and Development Center	101,628.82	13,560.59	88,068.24	78.91	75,340.12	36,038.65	2.20	111,380.98	(111,302.07)	100,477.34	(10,824.72)		(10,824.72)
National Academy of Science and Technology	7,601.44	4,945.63	2,655.81	73.90	4,466.30	16,663.97	-	21,130.27	(21,056.37)	21,243.35	186.98		186.98
National Research Council of the Philippines	15,250.38	796.38	14,454.00	0.54	15,335.95	6,299.33		21,635.28	(21,634.74)	22,324.09	689.35		689.35
Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration	1,508,098.77	1,035,597.77	472,500.99	418.22	285,878.96	79,703.21	82.50	365,664.66	(365,246.44)	363,524.33	(1,722.11)	(3,164.59)	(4,886.70)
Philippine Council for Advanced Science and Technology Research and Development	101,616.54	24,476.75	77,139.79	0.56	12,360.81	20,496.25	0.10	32,857.16	(32,856.60)	59,263.32	26,406.71		26,406.71
Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development	200,681.35	44,669.09	156,012.25	0.03	76,839.46	53,891.24	2.96	130,733.66	(130,733.63)	249,616.61	118,882.99		118,882.99
Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development	77,117.57	27,941.44	49,176.13	5,747.28	14,844.00	7,007.70		21,851.70	(16,104.41)	31,653.21	15,548.79		15,548.79
Philippine Council for Health Research and Development	12,716.24	1,709.93	11,006.31	-	22,626.97	18,033.04		40,660.02	(40,660.02)	38,225.30	(2,434.71)		(2,434.71)
Philippine Council for Industry and Energy Research and Development	36,535.86	13,021.89	23,513.97	22.47	15,602.02	15,696.68		31,298.71	(31,276.24)	34,794.11	3,517.87	1,264.62	4,782.49
Philippine Nuclear Research Institute	217,950.91	50,895.40	167,055.51	4,695.20	74,991.53	33,044.82		108,036.35	(103,341.15)	103,973.30	632.16		632.16
Philippine Science High School	511,865.94	23,687.55	488,178.39	561.29	151,511.18	104,696.99	-	256,208.18	(255,646.89)	260,993.93	5,347.04		5,347.04
Philippine Textile Research Institute	57,130.33	7,530.46	49,599.87	1.53	41,217.05	17,371.30	6.08	58,594.43	(58,592.90)	50,468.40	(8,124.51)	(743.92)	(8,868.42)
Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology	761,481.03	13,248.24	748,232.79	-	59,099.05	73,049.00	-	132,148.05	(132,148.05)	83,277.50	(48,870.55)	-	(48,870.55)
Science and Technology Information Institute	29,332.48	5,212.49	24,119.99	192.40	25,209.70	8,938.13		34,147.83	(33,955.43)	33,037.35	(918.07)		(918.07)
Science Education Institute	486,796.46	34,769.10	452,027.36	-	15,979.97	235,741.99		251,721.95	(251,721.95)	426,795.51	175,073.56		175,073.56
Technology Application and Promotion Institute	234,346.11	48,323.98	186,022.13	78.58	23,775.92	5,281.75	-	29,057.66	(28,979.08)	36,424.94	7,445.86	-	7,445.86
Social Welfare and Development	40,406,591.54	601,013.53	39,805,578.00	411,977.16	638,124.81	2,637,130.86	51.99	3,275,307.67	(2,863,330.51)	3,788,470.00	925,139.49	(19,921.72)	905,217.77
Office of the Secretary	40,181,727.75	582,334.62	39,599,393.13	411,977.16	610,395.05	2,580,639.52	48.99	3,191,083.55	(2,779,106.40)	3,572,358.21	793,251.81	(19,938.72)	773,313.10
Council for the Welfare of the Children and Youth	189,784.81	12,045.53	177,739.28	-	9,253.12	34,246.02	2.09	43,501.23	(43,501.23)	167,259.12	123,757.89	17.00	123,774.89
Inter-Country Adoption Board	23,034.99	6,210.70	16,824.30	-	3,906.92	12,178.50	0.91	16,086.33	(16,086.33)	16,677.19	590.86	-	590.86
National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons	12,043.99	422.69	11,621.30	-	14,569.73	10,066.82	-	24,636.55	(24,636.55)	32,175.48	7,538.93	-	7,538.93
Tourism	3,295,650.40	173,012.42	3,122,637.98	58,308.89	381,090.43	1,076,641.56	2,216.43	1,459,948.42	(1,401,639.53)	1,993,755.67	592,116.14	(11.19)	592,104.95
Office of the Secretary	2,772,022.15	133,602.51	2,638,419.64	18,472.74	255,195.25	971,590.94	2,216.43	1,229,002.61	(1,210,529.87)	1,766,736.12	556,206.25	(11.19)	556,195.06
Intramuros Administration	371,417.68	27,327.72	344,089.96	39,836.15	19,576.44	58,364.81	-	77,941.25	(38,105.09)	31,073.35	(7,031.75)	-	(7,031.75)
National Parks Development Committee	152,210.57	12,082.19	140,128.37	-	106,318.74	46,685.82	-	153,004.56	195,946.20	42,941.64	-		42,941.64
Trade and Industry	2,423,384.01	397,979.51	2,025,404.50	16,783.77	995,590.98	811,861.35	2,238.40	1,809,690.72	(1,792,906.95)	2,612,405.10	819,498.15	(271.76)	819,226.40
Office of the Secretary	2,081,634.41	325,436.86	1,756,197.55	1,995.71	826,646.42	635,146.29	2,237.09	1,464,029.80	(1,462,034.09)	2,270,361.93	808,327.84	(271.76)	808,056.08
Board of Investments	64,513.06	23,287.30	41,225.77	4,521.68	100,449.13	90,414.64	0.06	190,863.83	(186,342.15)	211,076.32	24,734.17		24,734.17
Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines	40,334.58	33,285.59	7,049.00	-	21,860.04	15,347.06	-	37,207.12	(37,207.12)	37,486.60	279.48		279.48
Construction Manpower Development Foundation	53,036.23	2,528.40	50,507.83	2,535.73	11,355.93	13,815.90		25,171.83	(22,636.10)	18,375.33	(4,260.76)		(4,260.76)
Philippine Trade Training Center	166,831.49	7,555.85	159,275.64	7,729.71	14,773.91	34,254.25	-	49,028.16	(41,298.45)	29,837.71	(11,460.74)		(11,460.74)
Product Development and Design Center of the Philippines	17,034.24	5,885.52	11,148.72	0.94	20,505.54	22,883.19	1.25	43,389.99	(43,389.05)	45,267.21	1,878.17	-	1,878.17
Transportation and Communications	82,785,114.02	15,565,843.44	67,219,270.58	31,263.64	3,571,545.66	8,076,166.94	13,974.81	11,661,689.41	(11,630,425.77)	14,224,796.17	2,594,370.40	(37,935.48)	2,556,434.92
Office of the Secretary	82,305,998.36	15,513,305.35	66,792,693.01	27,419.56	3,160,579.66	7,798,684.81	13,955.72	10,973,220.18	(10,945,800.62)	13,508,960.02	2,563,159.40	(37,914.39)	2,525,245.01
Civil Aeronautics Board	14,407.04	3,941.73	10,465.31	7.81	23,113.98	11,372.15	-	34,486.13	(34,478.32)	37,762.99	3,284.67		3,284.67
National Telecommunications Commission	255,238.76	16,761.02	238,477.74	136.00	119,732.89	87,450.42		207,183.31	(207,047.31)	195,631.05	(11,416.26)	-	(11,416.26)
Maritime Industry Authority	46,099.82	28,570.64	17,529.17	3,700.27	127,173.18	106,467.87		233,641.04	(229,940.77)	232,268.14	2,327.37	(21.09)	2,306.28
Office of Transportation Cooperatives	995.41	376.62	618.80	-	9,921.71	2,845.54	-	12,767.24	(12,767.24)	12,878.66	111.42		111.42
Office for Transportation Security	155,611.68	939.87	154,671.81		122,723.18	65,361.09	19.10	188,103.37	(188,103.37)	224,966.95	36,863.58		36,863.58
Toll Regulatory Board	6,762.94	1,948.20	4,814.74	-	8,301.06	3,987.05	-	12,288.14	(12,288.14)	12,328.36	40.22		40.22
National Economic and Development Authority	1,426,376.31	446,628.35	979,747.97	50,121.11	1,076,450.43	589,125.87	216.88	1,665,793.17	(1,615,672.07)	1,659,295.98	43,623.91	(145.43)	43,478.48
Office of the Director-General	953,063.54	200,636.09	752,427.45	5,023.26	361,955.93	187,307.25	15.22	549,278.41	(544,255.14)	595,073.30	50,818.16	(90.79)	50,727.37
National Statistical Coordination Board	36,436.31	9,219.44	27,216.88	-	51,494.06	30,284.46	42.50	81,821.02	(81,821.02)	78,006.66	(3,814.36)		(3,814.36)
National Statistics Office	377,664.72	218,918.34	158,746.38	40,667.23	621,688.62	347,583.94	152.25	969,424.81	(928,757.59)	914,064.05	(14,693.53)	(54.64)	(14,748.17)
Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency	3,504.60	244.65	3,259.95	319.19	6,811.74	3,882.

Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON AUDIT

Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

IC

REPORT ON FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

National Government Agencies of the Republic of the Philippines

FISCAL YEAR 2006

(in thousand pesos)

Department//Office	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses								
					Operating Expenses							
	Total Assets	Total Liabilities and Deferred Credits	Total Equity	Income [2]	Personal Services	MOOE	Financial Expenses	Total Expenses	Net Income/ (Loss) Before Subsidy	Subsidy From/ (To)	Net Income/(Loss) After Subsidy	Gain/(Loss)	Net Income/ (Loss)
Intellectual Property Office	696,497.47	16,873.66	679,623.81	295,041.19	146,045.14	88,204.33	15.11	234,264.57	60,776.62	3,176.82	63,953.44	(6.70)	63,946.73
Movie and Television Review and Classification Board	12,068.07	9,691.83	2,376.24	-	16,103.50	20,044.93	-	36,148.43	(36,148.43)	38,324.32	2,175.89		2,175.89
National Anti-Poverty Commission	270,840.53	211,166.04	59,674.49	532.07	22,503.24	23,800.80	-	46,304.04	(45,771.97)	48,524.56	2,752.59		2,752.59
National Commission for Culture and the Arts	1,966,283.91	146,529.46	1,819,754.45	98,711.76	16,206.38	97,102.15	11.53	113,320.06	(14,608.29)	185,989.89	171,381.59		171,381.59
National Commission on Indigenous Peoples	294,954.65	115,428.30	179,526.35	4,116.42	347,340.72	161,380.81	39.73	508,761.25	(504,644.83)	543,226.41	38,581.58	(152.77)	38,428.81
National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women	22,357.02	1,858.98	20,498.04	20.72	16,556.34	22,718.03	-	39,274.37	(39,253.65)	38,475.06	(778.59)		(778.59)
National Historical Institute	230,357.43	15,101.95	215,255.48	-	41,247.64	22,337.91	3.11	63,588.65	(63,588.65)	69,187.52	5,598.87		5,598.87
National Intelligence Coordinating Agency	274,474.47	14,889.19	259,585.29	257.00	203,767.65	345,077.25	-	548,844.89	(548,587.89)	528,072.27	(20,515.63)		(20,515.63)
National Library	326,799.46	7,180.14	319,619.31	-	35,112.71	45,382.04	-	80,494.75	(80,494.75)	68,072.56	(12,422.19)		(12,422.19)
National Museum	855,867.58	108,098.19	747,769.39	11.92	63,561.62	44,133.69	-	107,695.31	(107,683.39)	107,033.77	(649.62)		(649.62)
National Security Council	85,162.75	2,892.35	82,270.40	-	27,406.52	48,130.35	-	75,536.87	(75,536.87)	130,340.93	54,804.05		54,804.05
National Water Resources Board	426,261.95	399,786.29	26,475.67	-	26,980.84	10,334.47	-	37,315.31	(37,315.31)	38,200.10	884.79	68.35	953.14
National Youth Commission	10,845.41	1,706.45	9,138.96	1,624.55	24,060.61	32,404.81	0.35	56,465.77	(54,841.23)	55,394.78	553.55		553.55
Office of Muslim Affairs	88,483.53	24,251.38	64,232.15	2.74	213,374.21	44,964.12	12.81	258,351.13	(258,348.39)	261,509.34	3,160.96		3,160.96
Optical Media Board	105,987.40	39,579.83	66,407.57	-	14,370.27	9,637.52	-	24,007.79	(24,007.79)	27,310.62	3,302.83		3,302.83
Palawan Council For Sustainable Development Staff	46,665.07	2,242.57	44,422.50	179.76	27,389.95	19,689.49	0.70	47,080.15	(46,900.38)	52,990.29	6,089.90		6,089.90
Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency	173,275.81	6,648.76	166,627.05	-	17,784.84	177,412.69	12.57	195,210.10	(195,210.10)	173,754.37	(21,455.73)		(21,455.73)
Philippine Racing Commission	34,449.62	32,582.07	1,867.54	82.44	25,988.26	44,557.60	-	70,545.86	(70,463.42)	67,292.90	(3,170.52)		(3,170.52)
Philippine Sports Commission	724,831.00	298,144.84	426,686.16	544,992.65	71,122.86	463,912.71	16,578.92	551,614.49	(6,621.83)	76,878.62	70,256.79		70,256.79
Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor	41,783.75	2,961.65	38,822.11	-	38,114.05	21,111.81	2.10	59,227.96	(59,227.96)	59,322.45	94.49		94.49
Presidential Commission on Good Government	19,413,505.13	1,643,411.84	17,770,093.29	8,158.64	41,455.06	87,079.36	-	126,534.43	(120,375.78)	126,765.52	6,389.74	(21.03)	6,368.71
Presidential Legislative Liaison Office	8,335.98	2,399.30	5,936.68	-	9,693.99	10,723.16	-	20,417.15	(20,417.15)	20,370.09	(47.06)		(47.06)
Presidential Management Staff	93,978.00	16,336.82	77,641.19	-	105,797.36	69,813.54	-	175,610.89	(175,610.89)	160,980.56	(14,630.34)		(14,630.34)
Professional Regulation Commission	282,921.49	33,393.29	249,528.20	-	149,148.68	147,923.13	0.30	297,072.11	(297,072.11)	281,995.09	(15,077.03)		(15,077.03)
Records Management and Archives Office	98,974.81	10,136.07	88,838.74	4,591.05	32,340.52	26,036.03	-	58,376.55	(53,785.50)	54,667.84	882.34		882.34
Securities And Exchange Commission	604,700.26	32,783.17	571,917.09	108,731.05	246,264.32	158,377.34	0.40	404,642.06	(295,911.01)	299,854.54	3,943.52	816.12	4,759.64
Joint Legislative-Executive Councils	1,668.29	117.04	1,551.26	-	1,207.99	150.54	-	1,358.54	(1,358.54)	1,378.33	19.79	-	19.79
Judicial Branch	10,305,460.37	5,820,314.56	4,485,145.80	2,196,934.19	9,764,957.41	1,168,805.99	56,565.80	10,990,329.19	(8,793,395.00)	9,094,885.71	301,490.71	(1,078.33)	300,412.39
The Judiciary	10,305,460.37	5,820,314.56	4,485,145.80	2,196,934.19	9,764,957.41	1,168,805.99	56,565.80	10,990,329.19	(8,793,395.00)	9,094,885.71	301,490.71	(1,078.33)	300,412.39
Court of Appeals	483,291.76	139,571.42	343,720.35	684.22	503,150.59	174,715.00	-	677,865.59	(677,181.37)	672,179.51	(5,001.87)	(1,833.08)	(6,834.94)
Court of Tax Appeals	131,168.60	1,645.68	129,522.91	9.73	37,322.55	25,257.39	-	62,579.94	(62,570.20)	79,174.86	16,604.66	-	16,604.66
Presidential Electoral Tribunal	19,174.95	9,664.79	9,510.16	3.48	36,408.31	16,168.21	-	52,576.52	(52,573.05)	46,188.91	(6,384.13)	-	(6,384.13)
Sandiganbayan	1,039,052.50	962,908.20	76,144.30	6.85	109,576.13	53,077.56	53,300.42	215,954.12	(215,947.27)	225,247.15	9,299.88	-	9,299.88
Supreme Court of the Philippines	8,632,772.55	4,706,524.48	3,926,248.08	2,196,229.92	9,078,499.83	899,587.83	3,265.37	9,981,353.03	(7,785,123.11)	8,072,095.28	286,972.17	754.75	287,726.92
Constitutional Offices	6,673,953.21	1,166,116.48	5,507,836.73	177,653.24	5,567,392.78	1,325,444.27	150.51	6,892,987.56	(6,715,334.32)	6,893,852.71	178,518.39	(705.92)	177,812.47
Civil Service Commission	656,835.16	91,094.84	565,740.32	125,270.56	433,645.06	206,958.49	124.48	640,728.04	(515,457.48)	557,771.18	42,313.70	(13.25)	42,300.45
Career Executive Service Board	50,369.40	1,258.75	49,110.65	3,662.69	14,766.91	15,612.75	0.50	30,380.17	(26,717.48)	30,629.08	3,911.60	-	3,911.60
Civil Service Commission - Proper	606,465.76	89,836.10	516,629.67	121,607.87	418,878.15	191,345.74	123.98	610,347.87	(488,740.00)	527,142.10	38,402.10	(13.25)	38,388.85
Commission on Audit	824,470.44	67,823.48	756,646.96	30,938.91	3,772,647.23	393,722.08	14.11	4,166,383.42	(4,135,444.51)	4,162,042.46	26,597.95	(466.41)	26,131.54
Commission on Elections	5,192,647.60	1,007,198.16	4,185,449.44	21,443.77	1,361,100.49	724,763.69	11.91	2,085,876.10	(2,064,432.32)	2,174,039.06	109,606.74	(226.25)	109,380.49
Other Independent Offices	10,027,550.08	3,611,497.72	6,416,052.36	342,936.80	6,676,382.68	2,924,813.42	30,083.71	9,631,279.81	(9,288,343.01)	11,090,645.58	1,802,302.57	(419.21)	1,801,883.36
Office of the Ombudsman	994,899.45	196,680.42	798,219.04	58,559.45	521,432.56	210,983.90	30,027.99	762,444.45	(703,885.01)	782,142.71	78,257.70	-	78,257.70
Metropolitan Manila Development Authority	5,024,783.54	1,015,087.11	4,009,696.43	274,954.85	909,358.63	1,749,989.67	1.80	2,659,350.31	(2,384,395.46)	2,775,918.96	391,523.50		391,523.50
Commission on Human Rights	26,265.55	4,933.98	21,331.58	10.55	163,243.59	47,079.84	6.59	210,330.03	(210,319.47)	216,125.25	5,805.78	(419.21)	5,386.57
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	2,945,390.13	1,747,092.08	1,198,298.05	43.45	5,077,387.76	909,780.27	47.33	5,987,215.35	(5,987,171.91)	7,132,292.10	1,145,120.20		1,145,120.20
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission	1,036,211.41	647,704.14	388,507.27	9,368.50	4,959.94	6,979.73		11,939.67	(2,571.17)	184,166.55	181,595.39		181,595.39
GRAND TOTAL	2,578,694,396.37	4,215,135,301.43	(1,636,440,905.07)	1,007,800,132.76	324,945,603.82	112,446,525.48	322,784,463.17	760,176,592.47	247,623,540.29	(205,699,077.55)	41,924,462.74	77,163,482.29	119,087,945.03

Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off.

Note:

1 Based on the consolidated financial statements and reports of 120 State Universities and Colleges

2 As prescribed under the existing accounting rules and regulations, national government agencies (NGAs) not authorized to use income are required to record income earned in the agency's National Government (NG) Books under the account "Due to National Treasury". Upon remittance of income collected by NGAs to Authorized Government Depository Banks for the account of the Treasurer of the Philippines, the corresponding income accounts are recorded in the Department of Finance - Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) NG Books. When authorized to use income, NGAs record the specific income accounts under the Regular Agency Books.

3 Of the total income of P 988,284.89 million recorded by the BTr, the bulk of amounts were reported by Bureau of Internal Revenue - P 652,963.04 million; Bureau of Customs - P 196,611.96 million; Bureau of Immigration - P 486.67 million; Department of Environment and Natural Resources - P 249.68 million; Department of Transportation and Communication - P 7,220.09 million; National Bureau of Investigation - P 440.46 million; and BTr-Proper - P130,312.97 million.

(PDI - Oct. 7, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Sealed applications for eligibility and bid documents for the supply and delivery of 10,000,000 Inside Plastic Filler and 100,000 pcs. Holder/ Binder for Book of Voters, shall be received at the Comelec Session Hall, 8th floor, Palacio del Gobernador, Intramuros, Manila, October 18, 2007 at 2:00 in the afternoon, at which place, date and time, said sealed bids shall be opened in the presence of the members of the Bids and Awards Committee, representatives of the Commission on Elections, Commission on Audit, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, the participating bidders and the public, with an approved budget of One Hundred Thirty Eight Million Four Hundred Twenty Five Thousand (P 138,425,000) charged against the appropriation of the Modernization Project for FY 2007.

A Pre-bid Conference shall be held on October 15, 2007 at 10:00 in the morning at the Comelec Session Hall, 8th Floor Palacio del Gobernador Building.

Bid documents and specifications may be obtained during regular office hours beginning October 9, 2007 from the Property Division upon payment at the Cash Division, Commission on Elections, of a non-refundable amount of Sixty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (P69,200.00).

Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security equivalent to one per centum (1%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid, in the form of cash or Manager's/Cashier's check payable to the "Commission on Elections".

Delivery schedule shall be: 50% on or before October 27, 2007
50% on or before November 3, 2007

The COMELEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formal defect contained therein, and accept the lowest complying responsive bid that is most advantageous to the Commission. Likewise, it reserves the right to review the qualifications of the bidders after the bidding and before the contract is executed. Should such review uncover any change in the situation of the bidder to materially downgrade the substance of such statements, the COMELEC shall disqualify the bidder upon due notice without any obligation whatsoever on the part of the COMELEC for any expense or loss that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of its bid.

October 5, 2007.

(Sgd.) JULIO THADDEUS F. HERNAN
Vice-Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--October 7, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Office of the Secretary
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
2/F Building 1, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, 1003 Manila
Trunk Line 743-83-01 local 1625; 1626 Telefax: 741-97-75
URL: http://www.doh.gov.ph:

Invitation for Bids

Republic of the Philippines

IBRD-Assisted Second Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF HOSPITAL / LABORATORY AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT

IFB NO. WB-2007-11-7 (30)

Loan No. 7290-PH

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has applied for a Loan from the World Bank toward the cost of IBRD-Assisted Second Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project and intends to apply of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the Procurement of Hospital, Laboratory and Office Equipment under IFB No. WB-2007-10-26 (30).
2. The Department of Health (DOH) now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the above-mentioned Goods. Delivery of the GOODS is required by thirty (30) calendar days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. The procurement will be conducted through the government open competitive procedures specified under the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of the Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, with some amendments as stated in these Bidding Documents. The Estimated Project Cost is Nine Million Nine Hundred Four Thousand Philippine Pesos (PhP9,904,000.00).
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the COBAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the 2nd Floor, Bldg. 6, Procurement Dvision, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Philippine Pesos (PhP2,000.00). The method of payment will be on a cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *DOH* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 26, 2007, 10:00 a.m at the address given below.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 a.m., November 7, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount in Pesos or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Bid Security	Minimum Amount in % of the Estimated Project Cost for the Contract for the Package of the item/s for which Bid is Submitted
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	Package A: Hospital / Laboratory Equipment Item 1 – PhP25,000.00 Item 9 – PhP12,160.00 Item 2 – PhP5,000.00 Item 10 – PhP960.00 Item 3 – PhP24,000.00 Item 11 – PhP1,200.00 Item 4 – PhP12,600.00 Item 12 – PhP1,920.00 Item 5 – PhP3,000.00 Package B: Office Equipment: Item 6 – PhP1,350.00 Item 1 – PhP1,250.00 Item 7 – PhP4,800.00 Item 2 – PhP4,000.00 Item 8 – PhP1,800.00
Bank guarantee	Package A: Hospital / Laboratory Equipment: Item 1 – PhP37,500.00 Item 9 – PhP18,240.00 Item 2 – PhP7,500.00 Item 10 – PhP1,440.00 Item 3 – PhP36,000.00 Item 11 – PhP1,800.00 Item 4 – PhP18,900.00 Item 12 – PhP2,880.00 Item 5 – PhP4,500.00 Package B: Office Equipment: Item 6 – PhP2,025.00 Item 1 – PhP1,875.00 Item 7 – PhP7,200.00 Item 2 – PhP6,000.00 Item 8 – PhP2,700.00

8. Bid opening shall be on November 7, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at the address given below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The *DOH* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

COBAC CONFERENCE ROOM
Ground Floor, Building 6
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Facsimile number: 7419775;
Trunkline Number: 7438301 local 1625 and 1626

ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health and
COBAC Chairperson

(PDI--October 7, 2007)

PHILSSA & WORLD BANK

UPSURGE Project

PARTNERSHIP OF PHILIPPINE SUPPORT SERVICE AGENCIES
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies, Inc. (PHILSSA) has received a grant from the Japan Social Development Fund and the World Bank for the project, "URBAN PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE UPLIFTMENT, RENEWAL, GOVERNANCE AND EMPOWERMENT (UPSURGE)," and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consultant services.

NGO Implementing Agency. PHILSSA would like to invite NGOs interested in working in the cities identified herein to submit project proposals for the selection of four (4) NGOs that will assist PHILSSA in the implementation of subprojects within Valenzuela City, Legaspi City, Talisay City, San Fernando City, La Union. Interested organizations must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services following the minimum selection criteria:

a. Has identified potential project sites and communities that have pending needs related to infrastructure or site development and housing;
b. Has established relationship with LGUs of identified project sites;
c. Has demonstrated management and organizational capability for community-based infrastructure projects;
d. Has legal personality and legitimate track record as an organization (NGO, NGDO, civic group, cooperative, association, primary or secondary organization) and should have no derogatory record; and
e. Has financial capacity and financial management system.

The assignment is expected to be undertaken within a period of Fifteen (15) months starting January 2008.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (current edition). PHILSSA-NPMO shall draw up the shortlist of consultants from those who have submitted Expressions of Interest and have been determined as eligible. The shortlist shall comprise six (6) firms.

Interested organizations may obtain the prequalification documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). Deadline for submission of duly accomplished pre-qualification documents is on **November 5, 2007, Monday, 5:00PM** at the address below:

Ms. Anna Marie A. Karaos
Project Director, National Project Management Office (NPMO)
Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies
3/F Hoffner Building, Social Development Complex,
Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Telephone Nos.: (02)426-4328/ 426-0811
Fax No.: (02)426-4327
Email: philssawb@gmail.com

(PDI - Oct. 7, 2007)

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TEXT FULLNAME, AGE, EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND, LOCATION TO:
09184643503
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Inquire at 897-8808 loc 514.

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENT

Filing of Certificates of Candidacy for the
BARANGAY and SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS

starts September 29 up to October 18, 2007 (*excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays)* from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m *(except on the last day, when offices will be open up to 12:00 midnight)* at the Office of the Election Officer of the concerned city/municipality.

Education and Information Department
525-9294 * 525-9301 * 527-0821 * 527-5574

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Or e-mail us at: allupreview@yahoo.com

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NREA hails VP Noli's housing initiatives

TOP HOUSING PRACtitioners affiliated with the National Real Estate Association (NREA) have welcomed Vice President Noli de Castro's new program initiatives aimed at sustaining the current housing boom.

In a press statement following the recently-held NREA national convention, Mr. Jose V. Manalad, NREA chair, cited that these initiatives include removing the stumbling blocks to an efficient housing finance system.

This is coupled with the government's sharpening of the focus on the provision of socialized housing, he reported.

For his part, Alejandro S. Mañalac, NREA president, informed that Vice Pres. De Castro reduction of Pag-IBIG housing loan interests and extending loan repayment period up to 30 years have raised the demand for low-income housing due to increases in loan affordability levels.

In his keynote speech, Vice Pres. De Castro also directed Pag-IBIG Fund management to look into ways by which housing loan documents being required could still be reduced and the processing and release of housing loan proceeds could be further hastened.

NREA members have also expressed support to the directives VP Noli issued during the convention which was co-sponsored by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

These include his order for the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board to fast track the issuance of housing development permits and licenses, by making operational before the end of the year, a one-stop-shop for housing permits and licenses.

The Vice President also directed the full implementation by the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. of a secondary mortgage market, to channel fresh funds to housing through the issuance of mortgage-backed securities.

"I have also directed the Home Guaranty Corporation for the strengthening of the government's guaranty capacity for housing loans.

He also urged a greater focus on housing for underprivileged.

A call for Encore!

AFTER THE SUCCESSful show "Voices" last year, the Bahay ng Diyos Foundation with International Container Terminal Services, Inc and Asian Terminals Inc. as co-presenters will once again stage an anticipated dinner concert entitled "Encore!" on Oct. 22, 6 p.m. at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel.

Guests will surely demand for an encore from celebrated performers Mitch Valdez, Audie Gemora and Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo and the world class Dance Sport Champions, Ednah Ledesma, Margie Dela Rama, Girme Gutierrez, Jimmy Biglang-awa, Rose Jacob, Cynthia Mamon, Anna Marie Periquet and Elvira Yulo.

What also makes Encore! an event worth attending to is the fact that – similar to the show "Voices", it is produced to raise funds for the renovation of churches in the country. According to Noemi Saludo, the president of the Bahay ng Diyos Foundation, their earnings last year was used for the successful repair and refurbishing of six churches in Luzon namely: St. Bartholomew Parish in Pangasinan, Holy Family Parish in Makati City, St. Catherine of Alexandria in Cagayan, Tuguegarao, St. John the Baptist in Laguna, St. Andrew the Apostle in Pangasinan, and St. Joseph, Spouse of Mary Parish in Marinduque.

Saludo, in behalf of the foundation, would like to thank Winace Holdings Phils. Inc., Splash Corporation, UEM-Mara Philippines Corporation, People's Aircargo & Warehousing Co., Inc. and Port Users Confederation, Inc. for their unwavering support to this event. Heartfelt appreciation is also extended to Manila Bulletin, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Business World, The Manila Times, RJTV, iFM 93.9, Veritas 846, Magic 89.9 and RMN.

For inquiries, please contact Bahay ng Diyos Secretariat at telephone numbers 531-1182 and 531-4701 and cellphone numbers. 0917-5339685 and 0917-5415130.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project / Brief Description	Supply and delivery of the following furniture requirements for the proposed BSP Branch Building in Tuguegarao per BSP furnishing specifications Lot 1 – Swivel chairs 08 pcs. Extended back task chair 03 pcs. Mid-back task chair 14 pcs. Mid-back visitor's chair 07 pcs. Teller's stool Lot 2 – Stacking chairs 73 pcs. Stacking Chair with Sled Base 42 pcs. Stacking Chair with Sled Base, Gang-type 09 pcs. Guardhouse Chair Lot 3 – Sofas 12 pcs. One-seater Sofa 05 pcs. Three-seater Sofa Lot 4 – Workstations (including installation) and Mobile pedestals 01 pc. Receptionist's Workstation 01 pc. Utility Workstation 03 pcs. Utility Workstation 14 pcs. L-type Workstation 05 pcs. L-type Workstation 01 pc. L-type Workstation 01 pc. Director's Workstation 01 pc. L-type Workstation 40 pcs. Mobile Pedestal Lot 5 – Laminated / New tables 01 pc. Conference table 11 pcs. Side Table 02 pcs. Coffee Table 01 pc. Typing Desk 02 pcs. Typing Desk 27 pcs. Training Table 01 pc. Cash Work Table 03 pcs. Cash Work Table Lot 6 – Filing cabinets and Lockers 01 pc. Lateral File Cabinet 2-drawer 05 pcs. Lateral File Cabinet 3-drawer 40 pcs. Lateral File Cabinet 4-drawer 22 pcs. Steel Locker
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Lot 1 – P 415,200.00 Lot 2 – P 384,000.00 Lot 3 – P 286,000.00 Lot 4 – P 2,174,000.00 Lot 5 – P 793,000.00 Lot 6 – P 930,000.00
Delivery Period	Lots 1-3, 5 & 6 – not later than April 15, 2008 Lot 4 (including installation) – not later than March 15, 2008

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project awarded and completed from Y2002 to present amounting to at least 50% of the ABC of the lot/s to be bid. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 08 October 2007, not later than 2:00 PM
2. Pre-Bid Conference	29 October 2007, 10:00 AM
3. Opening of Bids	13 November 2007, 2:00 PM
4. Bid Evaluation	) These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods
5. Post-qualification	) allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A
6. Notice of Award	) of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 or 0.05% of the ABC of the lot/s to be bid whichever is higher.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI–October 7, 2007)

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Brief Description of GOODS: **Various Information and Communication Technology Equipment (LEPTES-04)**

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), through the General Appropriations Act FY 2006, RA 9336, As Reenacted, intends to apply the sum of **Twenty Million Pesos and 00/100 (Php 20,000,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing, Training and Commissioning of Various Information and Communication Technology Equipment (LEPTES-04)**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

TESDA now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for **Various Information and Communication Technology Equipment (LEPTES-04)**. Delivery of the Goods to the TESDP institutional sites shall be thirty (30) calendar days from date of contract signing. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, (R.A. 9184) otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat at the PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION, 3rd Flr. TESDA Administration Building, TESDA Complex, East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway, Taguig City and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (Monday to Friday) starting **October 1, 2007**.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos only (P10,000.00). The method of payment will be in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

TESDA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **October 12, 2007, 2:00 P.M.** at **Aquino Room, Learning Center,TESDA Administration Building**.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **10:00 A.M., October 26, 2007**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of:

- Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to 1% of ABC; or
- Bank guarantee equivalent to 1½% of ABC; or
- Surety Bonds are which shall be callable on demand and valid for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days equivalent to 2.5% of the ABC; or
- Foreign Government Guarantee equivalent to 100% of the ABC.

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be held on **October 26, 2007, 2:00 P.M.at the Aquino Room, Learning Center, TESDA Administration Building**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

TESDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MR. TEODORO S. SANICO
Chairperson, BAC
TESDA Administration Building, TESDA Complex
East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway
Taguig City, Philippines

Tel. No.: 817-40-76 to 80 local 314 & 315
TeleFax No.: 893-8296
E-mail: psd_ocsa@tesda.gov.ph
Website: www.tesda.gov.ph

(Sgd.) T.S. SANICO
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 2007)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(PROCUREMENT OF AFP DEFENSE EQUIPMENT)

1. The Department of National Defense/Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the *Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) Nr. D-07-00818*, intends to apply the amount of *ONE HUNDRED THIRTEEN MILLION TWO HUNDRED NINETY FOUR THOUSAND PESOS (PhP113,294,000.00)* and *FIFTY SIX MILLION FIVE HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND PESOS (PhP56,540,000.00)* being the total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Acquisition of the Philippine Army UHF Communication System Project and its Integrated Logistics Support (ILS) package and of the Philippine Navy/Marine Corps Sniper Weapon System Project.
2. The DND/AFP now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the bidding of the following AFP defense equipment:

	NAME OF PROJECT	APPROVED BUDGET OF THE CONTRACT	COST OF BIDDING DOCUMENT
1.	PA UHF Communication System - 92 units of UHF Repeater and 750 units UHF Handheld and their Integrated Logistics Support Package	Php 113.294M	Php 25,000.00
2.	PN(M) Sniper Weapon System - Lot 1 – SWS 7.62mm (PhP 54.210M) Lot 2 – SWS 12.7mm (Php 2.330M)	56.540M	25,000.00

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the *Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A* (IRR-A) of *Republic Act No. 9184* (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "*Government Procurement Reform Act*," and is open to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in *Section II* of the Bidding Documents ITB. The bidder with the *Lowest Calculated Bid* (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the *Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder* (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *DND Bids and Awards Committee* (DND BAC) *Secretariat* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address specified below from 8.00 AM to 5.00 PM.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount specified above. The method of payment will be in cash or thru cashier's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The DND BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **2:00 P.M., October 17, 2007** at DND Conference Room, 3rd Floor, DND Bldg., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address on or before the schedule stated below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form and corresponding amount allowed under RA 9184 and its IRR-A. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid submission and opening shall be on the following schedules at DND Conference Room, 3rd Floor, DND Bldg., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City:

	PROJECT	DATE	TIME
1.	PA UHF Communication System	October 31, 2007	10:00 A.M.
2.	PN(M) Sniper Weapon System	October 31, 2007	2:00 P.M.

9. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Only bids from manufacturers or their representative of the aforementioned system/equipment will be entertained. The equipment/GOODS should be used in the armed forces of the country of origin or by the armed forces of at least two (2) countries in accordance with *SEC 4(b) of R.A. 7898*.
10. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers and/or prospective bidders who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the DND BAC, through the DND BAC Secretariat, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the procurement of the projects they wish to participate in, pursuant to *DND BAC Cir 01-2005* dated 12 May 2005.
11. The DND/AFP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

DND BAC Secretariat
DND/DMO Annex Bldg., Camp Gen Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City, Philippines 1110
Tel. No: (632) 911-6001 local 8414
Telefax No: (632) 421-3531
Email: bacsecretariat@dnd.gov.ph
Website: www.dnd.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ASEC ROBERTO G NUGUI
Chairman, DND BAC

(PDI - Oct. 7, 2007)

You better watch out, you better not cry,
You better not pout, we're telling you why...

PUREFOODS HORMEL

The Purefoods Hormel Company, Inc.
is coming to town!

Help bring Christmas to millions of Filipino homes.

The Purefoods Hormel Company Inc., makers of value-added processed meats, is in need of

TRUCKERS

(who have been good all year) to help spread **volumes** of **Christmas Products** from its Marikina and Cavite plants to the Greater Manila Area and the Luzon Provincial Areas.

We're making a list, and checking it twice. If you fit the description, then that would be nice!

Truck Type	AUV's/Trucks (1.0-10.0 tons capacity)
Body Type	Refrigerated/Insulated/Closed Vans
Contract Period	October 01, 2007 to December 31, 2007

To find out how you can bring Christmas to town and earn from it, contact:

MR. PERRY C. RUTAQUIO

At the following address and telephone numbers:

THE PUREFOODS-HORMEL COMPANY, INC.
Barrio San Roque, Marikina City
Telephone Nos. 645-3251 to 55 • Local 253, 257, 258 and 340
Fax Number 645-4535 and 646-9556 • Cellular No. 0917-8050116

ANIB DONATES P100K TO NFA EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Alyansa ng Industriyang Bigas, Inc. (ANIB) president Robert Hernandez (in white shirt and eyeglasses) hands over a replica of the check amounting to P100,000 to National Food Authority Employees Association (NFAEA) president Roman Sanchez (wearing a cap) representing ANIB's donation to the NFAEA to finance the education of children of NFA employees who are taking agriculture courses. ANIB sponsored 'Swing for a Cause' golf tournament held at the Veterans Golf Club in North Avenue, Quezon City recently, proceeds of which is the donation to the NFAEA. ANIB is a non-stock, non-profit organization of grains businessmen whose primary aim is to alleviate the plight of the rice industry in the country. The NFAEA, meanwhile, is an association of NFA employees nationwide headed by national president Roman M. Sanchez.

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Jollibee treats families for a day in 'Springfield'

PINOY FAMILIES WERE TREATED TO ONE of the jolliest Sundays at the mall as Jollibee, the country's undisputed fast food chain leader, made family bonding extra special with the recent Jolly Springfield Sunday held at the Main Atrium of SM Mall of Asia.

Coinciding with the theater debut of the blockbuster hit The Simpsons Movie, the Jolly Springfield Sunday recreated the wacky suburban neighborhood of Springfield and its colorful characters with the images of the well-loved dysfunctional Simpson family - Homer, Marge, Lisa, Bart and Maggie - enjoying a meal in their dining room prominently on display.

Customers who bought two Jollibee Kids Meals from July 13-24 got free entrance to the "Jolly Springfield Sunday" mall event where models dressed up as Springfield townspeople greeted them. Fun, interactive activities were conducted round-the-clock during the whole-day event where parents and their children were seen together working on art pieces, joining fun games, and taking souvenir shots with the Simpsons-inspired characters. There was face painting at Moe's Tavern, Mad Science Exhibition at the Powerplant, arts and crafts at the Springfield Elementary School, and picture-taking for the whole family at the Simpsons' couch, where families posed a la Simpsons in the opening billboard of television's longest running cartoon series. Special prizes were handed out to the top three families with the wackiest pose.

A cozy nook called Kwik-E-Mart was also one of the features of the Jolly Springfield Sunday event and as the name suggests, it was a place to own a piece of Jollibee. Jollibee VCDs (Series 1-6) were on sale courtesy of Star Records, as well as colorful JolliKids Apparel, and EQ Dry·Baby Diapers and Chris Sports products. Aside from celebrating the much-anticipated The Simpsons Movie, Jolly Springfield Sunday also gave the children the opportunity to meet their favorite Jollibee mascots up close. Kids were more than eager to learn the new Jollibee Hagikgik dance steps together with the mascots. Still, others queued for a seat in an entertaining puppet show featuring the Jollibee characters.

Even parents were not spared from the infectious fun that Jollibee events are known for. There where relay games where moms and dads led their families to be declared the fastest and earn special prizes from Jollibee.

Highlighting the event was a short program hosted by TV personality Suzy Entrata-Abrera along with versatile performer JM Rodriguez, who, incidentally, is the voice behind the song entitled, "Jollibee," one of the popular songs of Jollibee. The talented performer belted out the famous "Jollibee" song as the Jollibee mascots danced to the jovial tune.

The excitement built up as the winners of the nationwide Jollibee-Simpsons raffle promo were drawn. Five lucky participants are now the proud recipients of the Maggie Baby Showcase sponsored by EQ Dry Baby Diapers and Toy Kingdom and, the Lisa Music Showcase, the Bart Sports Showcase sponsored by Chris Sports, the Marge Kitchen Showcase, and the Homer Home Entertainment Showcase.

Co-presented by EQ Dry Baby Diapers, with Toy Kingdom as major sponsor and Chris Sports as minor sponsor, the successful Jolly Springfield Sunday was just one of Jollibee's innovative ways of bringing wholesome fun for the whole family. Throughout the years, Jollibee has always been on the lookout for opportunities to strengthen the ties of Filipino families not only through sharing sumptuous and affordable food, but also through learning and enjoying good times together.

FIRST DEALER'S REBUILT FACTORY INAUGURATED

The first Honda Motorcycle Dealer's Rebuilt factory located in Bgy. Makiling, Calamba, Laguna was inaugurated Sept. 27. The factory, Technoserve Motorcycle Sales and Service Corp is a partnership between Honda Philippines Inc and the Monacor Group of Companies. Susan Armenta, HPI's 2H department manager, spearheaded the establishment of this 1st Rebuilt Factory. Kazuhiko Ikezoe, president and general manager of HPI and Vicente Ongtenco, chair of the Monacor Group led the ribbon cutting ceremony together with Alex Ongtenco, president of Technoserve, Ramon Manzana, president of Honda Prestige Traders Inc, Armando Reyes, sales marketing manager of Consolidated Monacor Corp, Masanori Kito, assistant to the president, MC Sales of HPI and lawyer Brigido Valmadrid, AVP for audit and corporate legal of HPI. Also present were branch managers of HPTI in the nearby areas and employees of Technoserve. Ronnie Ong, Technoserve plant manager took the lead in the line-off ceremony of the 1st rebuilt motorcycle unit at the factory. In his speech, Ikezoe stressed Honda's commitment to the community in not only making motorcycles easy to buy but is anchored on the company's social responsibility's objective towards the environment of setting up factories which adhere to environmental standards, and advocate safety by rebuilding motorcycles that can safely run our streets.

JCB, BDO STRENGTHEN BUSINESS RELATIONS

JCB's new president and COO Kenji Seto (left) shakes hands with BDO's EVP and consumer lending group head Rolando C. Tanchanco, in a courtesy dinner hosted by JCB International. BDO launched its JCB 4Gives credit card last April, highlighting the first-of-a-kind feature of monthly billing statement via Text Message and the unique 4-gives payment scheme. BDO JCB 4Gives card, the affordable credit card that offers the lightest and most flexible way to manage your expenses, is primarily marketed through BDO branches and BDO kiosks located in select SM malls.

CDO, UNILAB SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING

Mayor James de Jesus (seated) of Calumpit, Bulacan leads the launching ceremonies of Gabay Buhay supplemental feeding project held Aug. 6 in Barangay Bulusan this town. De Jesus is assisted by CDO special account specialist Rey Perez and Odyssey Foundation executive director Dindo Danao. The program is a nutrition initiative of food processing company CDO, through its corporate social responsibility arm Odyssey Foundation, and pharmaceutical giant United Laboratories Inc to ease the problem of child malnutrition in the country.

SITTI SERENADES TO A FRESH FRUIT MIX

Like an invigorating cup of freshly-blended fruit drink in a warm weather, Sitti sings a whole new flavor for the senses as she recently formalized her endorsement for Lush Group of Companies, specifically for the brands Fruitas, The Mango Farm, and Buko ni Fruitas chains all over the country. Shown in photo are (from left) John Lozano, marketing consultant for Sitti; Sitti Navarro; Jennifer Encarnacion, brand manager for Lush Group of Companies; Wilfred Tiu, advisor for Lush Group of Companies. Bannered by the hottest sensation in the local music industry today, Lush brings forth quality fruit drinks as it delivers sweet and healthy treats to satiate the Filipino palate.

FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS

'Follow your dream.' This was the main message imparted by Discovery Suites's general manager Bobby Horrigan and corporate chef for Discovery Group David Pardo de Ayala when they were invited for a career talk at the Immaculate Conception Academy (ICA). A brief presentation was made on the three Discovery properties - Discovery Suites, Discovery Country Suites Tagaytay, and Discovery Shores Boracay. Horrigan spoke about the importance of customer service in the hotel industry, while chef David gave tips on choosing a life-long career, not only in food and beverage. Photo shows chef David and Mr Horrigan with third year high school student representatives from ICA.

BRITISH SCHOOL MANILA'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

BSM headgirl Ma. Claudine Fernandez(2nd from right) and headboy Nicolas Jenny, receive on behalf of BSM's students and faculty the much coveted Council of International Schools (CIS) certificate during the school's 30th anniversary celebration held recently in Forbes Park. BSM is the first and only school in the Philippines to receive CIS accreditation which places the BSM at par with only 200 select schools worldwide. Applauding are British Ambassador Peter Beckingham (far left), host of the event and Chris Mantz, BSM headmaster.

BDO Clips

'Operating room' on wheels launched in Quezon City

FIFTEEN BENEFICIARIES SUCCESSFULLY UNDERwent medical surgical procedures that include operations on cleft palate, benign tumors and other face deformities inside the newly launched "mobile surgery unit" in Quezon City. The mobile surgery unit, a brainchild of surgeon Dr. Juan Sanchez, is actually a donated container van whose inside was turned into a fully equipped operating room. Inside the van are two operating tables, a dressing room, toilet, lavatory, and a medical equipment that includes an E-cart with a defibrillator, an anesthesia machine and oxygen tanks. A group of doctors headed by Sanchez performed the operations on the beneficiaries recommended by the Quezon City government and the Rotary Club of San Francisco del Monte. For half a day inside the surgical bus, the doctors work on improving and repairing the patients' deformities. Sanchez's first patient was a 31-year-old male who was suffering from a cleft lip and nose deformity. Aptly christened as "DOCS" or Doctors Offering Care and Service, the mobile surgery unit is a project tied up with the local government and the Rotary Club and will go to the different areas and regions to become part of medical missions. It will also serve as a mobile clinic according to Sanchez, who's currently a consultant at Fe del Mundo Medical Center, Philippine Heart Center, Philippine Children's Medical Center and the AFP Medical Center. "The mobile surgical unit is an example of what doctors, especially surgeons can do to reach out those living in areas where facilities and surgical expertise are wanting," says Sanchez.

'The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising' press screening

THE INVITATIONAL PRESS SCREENING OF THE AMAZING EPIC ADVENture "The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising" is set on Oct. 12 (Friday) at Glorietta 4 cinema. The movie is based on the critically acclaimed and Newbery award winning book sequence by Susan Cooper. "The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising" tells the story of Will Stanton, a young man who learns he is the last of a group of warriors who have dedicated their lives to fighting the forces of the Dark. Traveling back and forth through time, Will discovers a series of clues which lead him into a showdown with forces of unimaginable power. "The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising" opens Oct. 17 in theaters nationwide from 20th Century Fox to be distributed by Warner Bros.

Mayfield Park Residences' Halloween promo

BUYERS WHO PURCHASE UNITS AT MAYFIELD PARK RESIDENCES from Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 are in for a Halloween shopping treat. At least forty astute buyers who book their units and complete the requirements within 30 days will receive an Abenson gift certificate worth P 15,000. The gift certificate is accepted at any Abenson outlet and would only require the presentation of the gift certificate and a valid ID for you to begin your shopping. The gift certificate is exclusive to the buyer, non-transferable and non-convertible to cash. Gift certificates not claimed within sixty days of notice will be forfeited. Mayfield Park Residences, situated on 3.2 hectares of prime property along Felix Avenue in Pasig City, is composed of nine low density mid rise Japanese inspired residential condominiums. It is a place that is both home and a Zen sanctuary, a quiet retreat of gardens and private nooks with resort-like ambiance and an Asian design concept for a combo home that offers fine living, Asian style. With its central location and resort like amenities, you would be hard pressed not to consider living in this community carefully planned and expertly executed by the country's first triple A builder/developer. Take advantage of this generous treat. For inquiries on Mayfield Park Residences, please call 888-3333 or visit www.dmcihomes.com.

Mr Softy Hoopla Basketball Shootout Challenge

MR SOFTY ICE CREAM TREATED LOYAL PATRONS AND ICE CREAM fans to a day full of fun and surprises with the Mr Softy Hoopla Basketball Shootout Challenge at the SM City Sta. Mesa Activity Center. The event featured exciting parlor games, great numbers and the Hoopla Shootout Challenge. Mr Softy will also be giving away exciting prizes via its 7th anniversary bash. For every single purchase of one (1) Mr Softy Rumble Crunch, two (2) Mr Softy Glaze or three (3) cups with toppings, you will be given one raffle ticket. Fill-out the raffle ticket and drop it to the outlet where you made the purchase. Keep the other half portion of the ticket as proof of purchase. You will have the chance to win a Nokia N70, iPOd nano, laptop or gift certificates. The second draw will be on Nov. 11 and the grand draw will be on Jan. 6 where at stake is a brand new Honda City. Venues will be announced later. Promo period is from Aug. 22 to Jan. 6, 2008. Deadline for submission of entries for the grand draw will be on Jan. 5, 2008 for NCR outlets and Jan. 1, 2008 for provincial outlets.

Human features second artist

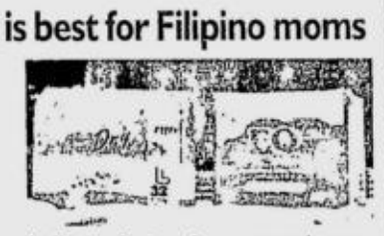
CLOTHING RETAIL BRAND HUMAN CONTINUES ITS TRAILBLAZING PROject, Artist's Corner, enlisting another multi-awarded artist for its second series. After the successful launch of their first featured artist (with New York City artist and skater Nico Puertollano) in June, clothing retail brand Human is bringing in a dynamic duo. This time around, Human's "featured artist" is actually two brilliant minds that are collectively known by the name, Electrolychee. Created in September 2005, Electrolychee is a local studio that merges slick computer-generated vector art (electro) and organic, hand-drawn imagery or illustrations (lychee) - a brainchild of Marcushiro and Bru. Marcus and Bru are full-time visual artists who frequently showcase their pop-inspired artworks in the metro's alternative galleries. For Human's Artist's Corner, they will put on display some of these previous works. Catch Electrolychee at the Human Artist's Corner, Human Glorietta 2 starting Sept. 1 to Oct. 13. See more of their strange creations at www.electrolychee.com.

ProductFiles

Renewed youth both inside and out with Carlo Rossi

SCIENTISTS HAVE A NEWFOUND DISCOVERY that will give renewed youth both inside and out. It comes in a bottle of red wine and is called resveratrol, a miracle molecule that not only will leave you young-looking but even give you more years to enjoy your newfound youth. Resveratrol is a unique anti-oxidant that red grapes produce in great amounts as a defense against fungi and was discovered to dramatically lengthen the life span on all life forms on which it was tested. As an anti-aging agent, it helps rejuvenate our body cells by setting off its survival defense enzyme, giving cells more time to repair their broken DNA. Red wines, such as Carlo Rossi California Red, are the most concentrated source of this youth enhancing substance. Just a glass or two a day of Carlo Rossi's red wines can already give you the right amount of resveratrol to resist aging. So the next time you look in the mirror, worrying over fine lines and wrinkles, remember to reach for a bottle of red wine like Carlo Rossi California Red. You can add years to your life and look good living it.

EQ Diaper knows what is best for Filipino moms



JUST RECENTLY, EQ LAUNCHED its new TV commercial presenting mothers across Philippine regions who trust the economy and quality of a baby diaper synchronized with a very catchy all-season favorite song of a local trio (APO) with lines translated in different dialects. This is what EQ diaper offers, to provide Filipino moms the essential diaper protection for their babies. EQ launches its new and improved EQ Plus with vital features that answer the needs of babies. EQ Plus has an improved absorbent core that draws and locks wetness away from baby's skin for comfortable day and night protection. It has refastenable tapes that allow easy adjustment and better fit on waist and side leak guards that prevent side spills. It also has an added wetness indicator feature for mommy's convenience to tell the right time to change baby's diaper. Another variant of EQ is EQ Dry. It has 100 percent breathable cloth-like cover for baby to stay fresh and comfortable. It also has super absorbent core that ensures overnight protection for baby's sound sleep. These features will keep baby stress-free and always happy. In these times when budget limits are tightening, EQ further provides Filipinos a good quality diaper for babies at an affordable price. Truly, only EQ knows and understands the needs of Filipino.

A perfect combination at Seattle's Best Coffee

SEATTLE'S BEST COFFEE HAS always been known as the go-to place when you want exceptionally smooth and flavorful coffee. It also serves gourmet meals to satisfy your hunger pangs - an all-day breakfast menu, pasta dishes, sandwiches, and salads. For a light breakfast, you can try their Tuna Salad, Chef's Salad, or All-vegetable Salad. Enjoy these freshly-cooked gourmet meals at these branches: Tomas Morato; Caltex SLEX Southbound; Rockwell; Harrison Plaza Village Square; SM Megamall; Ongpin, Binondo; Festival Mall; Bonifacio High Street and at Trinoma Mall. Seattle's Best Coffee branches are located in Makati (Rockwell, Greenbelt 3 and Manila Polo Club Sports Lounge), Quezon City (Eastwood City Walk 1, Katipunan, Cybermall, SM The Block North Edsa, Tomas Morato), Manila (Harrison Plaza Village Square, Metropolitan Hospital, SM City-Manila, Ongpin Binondo), Pasig City (SM Megamall Megastrip, Tektite Tower), South Area (Festival Mall, Caltex SLEX Southbound, Alabang Town Center), Pasay City (SM Mall of Asia), Bonifacio High Street and Trinoma Mall.

Marina: Leading and still growing at 20

MARINA IS SYNONYMOUS TO the freshest oysters in town. Whether fresh, kinilaw, sizzling, steamed, baked or grilled, diners go nowhere else but to Marina for oysters. Diners are also crazy about its other bestsellers which include Native Chicken Roasted with Lemongrass, Prawns in Chili Sauce, Grilled Managat (sea bass). After 20 years, Marina just keeps on growing. Aside from its outlets in Timog, QC, Roxas Boulevard, Greenhillls and Alabang, Marina has added another branch in Trinoma Mall in QC. And as a gesture of gratitude to its loyal and satisfied patrons, Marina has launched its Bente Meal Promo, where dishes are priced for only P20. Check out this amazing deal which will commence on Oct. 5 until the 25th in all the branches. Indeed at 20, Marina is happy and so are its customers.

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ACCOUNTANT

ACCOUNTING 09195348175

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Density - 5 lots / hectare
• W i f i / W I M a x
•20m carriageway main road
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Hse LA457 FA370 5br 4cars garden 4545667; 09189235216

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59sqm NR La Salle St Scho w/Parking 2TB Tel 400-9407

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RUSH 390K NEGO 2TCTs BINANGONAN RZ 8435555

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1000sqm 2-stry Hse w/ Whse Panay Ave nr Roces Ave 2457004 (Ofc Hrs) 6403053 • 09172788975 Anne

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc.
#7611 Caeg Bldg., dela Rosa St., Makati City; #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City; #15 Gen Santos Ave., Lower Bicutan Taguig City; Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on October 13, 2007 at 9:00 am. Including all items pawned up to May, 2007 V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer
(PDI-October 7, 2007)

G.Y. Lopez Pawnshop & Jewelry Store Inc. UG 35 Citiland 8 Condo. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Makati City will hold an Aution Sale on October 13, 2007 at 9:00 AM including All Items Pawned From April to May, 2007 V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer
(PDI-October 7. 2007)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SOLEDAD de ASPELLERA, JOSE DEL PRADO JR., JESUS DEL PRADO was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. # 323, Page # 66, Book # VI Series 2007 by Notary Public Atty. Leticia S. Mariano de Guia of Parañaque City. (PDI-Sept.30, Oct. 7 & 14,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SOLEDAD de ASPELLERA, JOSE DEL PRADO JR., JESUS DEL PRADO was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. # 130, Page # 27, Book # XI Series 2007 by Notary Public Atty. Leticia S. Mariano de Guia of Parañaque City. (PDI-Sept.30, Oct. 7 & 14,2007)

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT THE SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF PERFECTO VALENZUELA WAS EXECUTED BEFORE NOT. PUB ANTOLIN OLIVA ON SEPT 20 2007 PER DOC NO 303 BOOK NO 4 PAGE NO 19 SERIES OF 2007 (PDI-Sept. 30, Oct. 7, 14, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SOLEDAD de ASPELLERA, JOSE DEL PRADO JR., JESUS DEL PRADO was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. # 30, Page # 7, Book # XII Series 2007 by Notary Public Atty. Leticia S. Mariano de Guia of Parañaque City. (PDI-Sept.30, Oct. 7 & 14,2007)

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1% Car Lending 6560140 United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% EASY CARLOAN 8997759

1% Sangla ur Car 5344441

1% w/out taking car 5315577

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1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732061/82

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7225647/48

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 7262780

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BILLIARDS

BLIARD TBLE 38T-UP 8014494

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT PIANOS: TERMS -T7213124

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that ATLAS Consolidation Mining and Development Corporation,stock certificate nos. 00042773,00047628 00048228,00058265 00099966,A 00009849 A 00085399 A 00109584,A 00136820 A 00174386,A 00207421 A 00248007 issued to ELIAS POBLETE was reportedly lost.If no contest is received new certificates will be issued (PDI-Oct. 7,14 & 21,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NORMA Y. BUSTAMANTE was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc No. 347; Page No. 71; Book No. 1; Series of 2007 by Notary Public Atty. Frederick C. Apsay of San Jose Bulacan
(PDI - September 23, 30 & October 7, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Glorioso V. Valdez was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. #0492, Page #100, Book #III. Series of 2007 before Notary Public Atty. Aileen D. Regio of Makati City.
(PDI - Oct. 7, 14, 21, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RUPERTO L. SAN JUAN has been extrajudicially settled as per Doc 471 Page 095 Bk 3 Series of 2007 Before Notary Public Atty. Edwin P. Cruz of Taytay Rizal
(PDI- Oct. 7, 14, 21, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MA. DOLORES C. IDEA was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. No. 2; Page No. 1; Book No. 1; Series of 2007 by Notary Public Atty. Angela C. Ylagan of Makati City
(PDI-Sept.30,Oct.7&14,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late GIL ABLAN & PACITA ABAÑO was extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc#295 Page#59 Book#59 Series of 2007 by Notary Public Editha P. Talaboc, City of Manila.
(PDI - Oct. 7, 14 & 21, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FRANCISCO TAN and VIRGINIA CHENG TAN was extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc. No. 67, Page No. 14, Book No. 57, Series of 2007 before Notary Public Socrates G. Maranan of Manila
(Oct 7 14 & 21 2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

MANUEL C. SANVICTORES
Alien Certificate No. E-031434
ICR No. 02928475 Issued By: BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION Issued On: May 26,1995(PDI-Oct. 7,07)

Notice is hereby given that the Stock Cert 44835 MER-B Shares 10,300; - AEV Shares 20,000; 37061 MER-A Shares 10; under the Name of GONZALO D. ROQUE JR. & Cert 020754 APM-B Shares 20,000,000 under the Name of MATEMARA, INC. Are lost if no contest is received new certificates will be issued.
(PDI- Sept. 23, 30, & Oct. 7, 2007)

Notice is hereby given the lost of Equitable PCIB Stock Certificate Nos. 22969, 22970, 27642 with total of 345 shares issued to Anna Francisco T. Castaneda. If no contest received new certificate will be issued. (PDI - Sept. 30, Oct. 7 & 14, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that BPI Managers check no. 0005040 in the amount of P312,500.00 was issued in the name of DANIEL CRUZ by BPI Family Bank,Pasig Branch was declared lost.If found call 09185726506-Daniel
(PDI-Sept. 30,2007)

Notice is hereby given that INDUSTRIAL REALTIES, INC. Stock Certificate#13-A issued in the name of MANUEL G. MONTECILLO dated March 28,1995 covering 48,000 shares has been reported lost by Mr. Manuel G. Montecillo. If no contest is received, the Corp. will issue a new stock cert.in his name as provided by law.(PDI-9/23,30,10/7,2007)

Notice of loss. Heritage Memorial Park Certificates Nos. 113968 and 113969 (w/ Lot Nos. 04L10367 and 04L10369) issued to ROLANDO P. ORENSE. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued. (PDI- Sept. 23,30&Oct. 7, 2007)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Republic of the Philippines
ILOCOS SUR POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE
Sta. Maria, 2705 Ilocos Sur

NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Trustees of the Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency of the **ILOCOS SUR POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE** is now open. Interested applicants and/or nominees are invited to send their formal applications to the Search Committee chaired by Commissioner Saturnino M. Ocampo, Jr.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a Natural born Filipino citizen;
- A holder of an earned doctorate degree in any academic field relevant to the mission and mandate of the College;
- Must not be more than 60 years old at the time of assumption into office;
- Must have a proven track record as administrator for at least five (5) years preferably in the academe; and
- Morally upright and has no record of criminal, civil and/or administrative charges.

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, the applicants should make a full disclosure of all administrative, criminal, and/or civil cases filed in any court in the Philippines and are required to submit the following clearances:

- NBI, Sandiganbayan and Previous Employer's Clearances;
- Civil Service Commission Clearance and/or Certificate of No Pending Administrative Case issued by the Administrative Officer of present employer; and
- Certificate of no pending cases issued by the Court where he/she resides.

Formal application addressed to the Search Committee should be accompanied with:

- Detailed Curriculum Vitae (under oath) and authenticated/certified supporting documents;
- The applicant's proposed Vision and Thrust for the College within a four-year period;
- Result of the Neuro-Psychiatric Examination accomplished by a competent physician of a government accredited Test Center;
- Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a government physician; and
- Under Oath CSC Form 212.

Interested applicants and/or those nominated for the position are requested to submit seven (7) sets of their formal application and certified supporting documents on or before November 06, 2007 to:

MR. MARLON N. FABRICANTE
Executive Assistant IV
Office of Commissioner S. M. OCAMPO, JR.
CHED, 5/f, DAP Bldg., San Miguel Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 636-1690; Telefax No. (02) 636-1693

OR

MS. ASUNCION G. ALTIZ
Acting Board Secretary
Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College
Sta. Maria, 2705 Ilocos Sur
Telefax No. (077) 732-5512

IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!
REAL ESTATE CONSULTANT
Degree holder (any 4 years course) ➢ Male ➢ 20-26 years old ➢ At least 57" in height ➢ With good interpersonal skills ➢ Presentable, flexible, aggressive, ambitious, dynamic and can work under pressure with minimal supervision ➢ With or without experience
Wages: 10K BASIC salary plus incentives, commissions and travel abroad.
Qualified applicants may call or txt @ this mobile # (0920) 523-61-24

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WANTED QUALIFIED TELEPHONE OPERATOR ACCOUNTING SECRETARY/ENCODER /FEMALE KAYBIGA, CALOOCAN CITY AREA ONLY PLS. CALL 9397516 9398119

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WANTED THERAPIST CALL 910-5410

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MALE/FEMALE

AUTO CADD OPERATOR at least 2years architectural course w/ good communication skills w/ or w/o experience
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE 18 - 35 yrs old w/ good communication skills send resumae at; sales @ ssis.com.ph or call: 826-7295 & 513-3519

WANTED Immediately Office Staff ads Rep. call 926-0144 / 0 9 1 8 6 7 1 3 6 4 3

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RCMagno Group of Companies JETT

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Graduate or undergraduate of ME/CE/Sanitary/ Architecture
Male or Female, not more than 30 years old
Must be presently residing near the head office (Quezon City) or any JETT branch office (Baguio, Cebu, Iloilo, Davao)
Must have keen interest in selling and dealing with people

Email resume to jettwaterphils@yahoo.com or bring resume, TOR and other credentials to:

Head Office (02) 723 0032
Unit 3 Bona Condominium, 545 EDSA, Cubao, Quezon City

Baguio Branch (074) 442 2546
Km 3, Central Bakakeng, Marcos Highway, Baguio City

Cebu Branch (032) 346 4536
287 A. Del Rosario St., Guizo, Mandaue City

Iloilo Branch (033) 320 4976
C-1 Reginaville Building, North Jalandoni, Jaro, Iloilo City

Davao Branch (082) 299 2082
Unit 5 W&H Building, McArthur Highway, Matina, Davao City

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Final Touches Furniture and Furnishing Company Kuwait Korean International Company in Kuwait is in need of

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All of the categories must have at least 3 yrs. Experience
REQUIREMENTS: Resume with picture 2X2, NBI and passport copy
Salary Range will depend on your experience and qualifications.
VISIT us at: A. Mabini Street, Luz Henson Bldg. Ermita Manila
INTERVIEW WILL START FROM 10AM TO 5PM
Tel #: 303-1337, 303-3668, Cell # 09175205599
For Manpower Pooling, No Fees to be Collected,
Beware of ILLEGAL RECRUITER!!!

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
OPERATIONS PERSONNEL
- MALE, 21-26 YRS OLD
- COLLEGE GRADUATE
- GOOD IN MATHEMATICS
- FLEXIBLE TO ANY KIND OF WORK & FAST LEARNER
- HAVE KNOWLEDGE IN COMPUTER (SOFTWARE / HARDWARE)
- WITH PLEASING PERSONALITY

INTERESTED APPLICANTS, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RESUME TOGETHER WITH 2x2 PICTURE TO:
PHILIPPINES WORLD SPORTS PROMOTION CO., INC.
UNIT M, MANILA BAY ARCADE,
CORTABITARTE ST., MALATE, MANILA
(Beside ALOHA HOTEL)

SALES/MARKETING STAFF
MALE W/ KNOWLEDGE IN LOCKING HARDWARE, COMPUTER LITERATE & FLUENT IN ENGLISH
S&V CORPORATION
4385 – B Dayap St. corner Bautista Barangay Palanan
Makati City
Tel. 551-72-27
728-61-81

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

THIS IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT **MR. MELCHOR PINEDA**, WHOSE PICTURE APPEARS ABOVE HAS A WARRANT OF ARREST UNDER CRIMINAL CASE NOS. 3445, 3446 & 3447 AT THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT, 1ST JUDICIAL REGION, BANTAY, ILOCOS SUR.

ANY INFORMATION AS TO HIS WHEREABOUTS MAY BE CONVEYED TO CP NO. 0917-465-9233 OR TEL NO. 074-442-7609. OR TO NBI TARLAC, TEL. NO. 045-982-1348 OR NBI BANTAY, ILOCOS SUR. TEL. NO. (077) 722-8195.

(PDI – October 7, 2007)

JOB Market
Read it every Sunday in the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
Where you find the best.
INQUIRER
Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.

"Only your best is good enough for your mission."

- General Atienza

In Loving Memory

On the 41st Death Anniversary of

GENERAL RIGOBERTO J. ATIENZA

Former Chief of Staff
Armed Forces of the Philippines
who died on October 8, 1966

His children Zenaida and David Clymer, Eloisa and Victor Lim, Herminia Atienza-Ilano, Rosalinda and Balbino Hernando, Rolando and Cecilia Reynoso-Atienza, and Josefina Atienza-Salvaña, grandchildren and great-grandchildren invite relatives and friends to remember him in their prayers and to join them tomorrow, Monday, October 8, 2007 in the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at Camp Gen. Rigoberto J. Atienza, Libis, Quezon City at 3:00 p.m., after which will be the annual Gen. Rigoberto J. Atienza Memorial Awards Ceremonies; and on Sunday, October 7, 2007 at graveside at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City at 11:00 a.m. On Monday, October 8, 2007, Holy Mass will be offered for the General at military and PNP chapels throughout the country.

We invite you to also remember his wife **EUGENIA SUAREZ ATIENZA** who died on June 22, 1995.

"You are gone...
But for us you never left...
God has you in His keeping
We have you in our hearts."

Our Dearly Beloved

FRANCISCO C. YU

Peacefully joined our Creator, and his wife, **SHEOLIN** (†) on October 3, 2007 at the age of 77.

His loving children, **Zenaida** and **Richard**, **Annabelle**, **Josephine**, **Alexander** and **Michelle**, **Andrew** and **Evangeline**; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, brothers and sisters, and all his relatives and friends, request the pious readers and all those whose lives he touched, to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Chapel #8, New Wing, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at The Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Taguig City.

Beloved Husband, Father, Son and Brother

JOHN WILLIAM RICE

(June 3, 1953 – October 5, 2007)
Peacefully joined our Creator at the age of 54.

His loving wife **Helen**; children **Jonathan**, **Timothy**, **Kirsten**, **Samantha** and **Tabitha**; mother **Carol**; sister **Leslie**; brothers **Peter** and **Gary**; all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Arlington East, C. Raymundo Ave. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City.

Interment at the Heritage Memorial Park on Saturday, October 13, 2007 after the 1 p.m. Mass.

VICENTE UY VIRATA-NG

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 4, 2007 at the age of 56.

His wife and son, sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Imperial Classic Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on October 9, 2007 (1:00PM) at Eternal Garden Memorial Park.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER — NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Reaching Classifieds

Join the nation as it commemorates our dearly departed with

Memories

A special pullout section for the Eternal Care Industry

An 8-page, full color, tabloid-sized supplement published for All Saints' Day. The perfect medium for funeral parlor, columbariums, insurance companies, memorial parks and other eternal care-related products and services.

It will be published on October 28, 2007 and will be distributed with the Inquirer. Free copies will also be given to select memorial parks, funeral parlor, columbariums, on November 1, 2007.

ACCEPTABLE AD MATERIAL
TIF Format / 300 Pixels Per Inch (resolution) / CMYK Mode
DEADLINE: October 19, 2007

IN THIS SEASON OF MEMORIES, BE REMEMBERED.
Book your ads now! Call Aileen Garcia or Dhel Mendoza at 912-9008 to 11 / 421-1420 / 421-0343

In Loving Memory
First Death Anniversary

Geraldine A. Picar

(May 04, 1946 – October 10, 2006)

Her sister **Vivi Buccat**; brother **Rody Picar**; nephews and nieces, invite relatives and friends to join them in celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Wednesday, October 10, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. at Crypt 3 of Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Mckinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Our Beloved

Atty. LEOPOLDO L. AFRICA

(Former COMELEC Commissioner)

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 5, 2007 at the age of 83.

His loving wife **Angeling**; children **Edwin & Myrna**, **Ismael & Jenny**, **Ramon & Caroline**, **Jonathan**; grandchildren, sisters, other relatives and friends, request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Sta. Maria della Strada Parish Mortuary Chapel, Katipunan Ave. cor. Pansol St., Quezon City.

Tentative cremation will be on October 9, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. at the Loyola Crematory Services, Marikina City.

ANITA ABAD KARAOS

Peacefully joined the Lord on October 5, 2007 at the age of 85.

Her children **Emma** and **Anna Marie**, son-in-law **Phil**; grandchildren **Arvin**, **Eric**, **Karen**, **Paolo**, **Gino**, and great-grandchildren **Danielle**, **Tristan** and **Princess**, request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Peter Chapels, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on October 9, 2007, Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. at at the Eternal Gardens. Her ashes will be brought to St. Vincent Columbary, Tandang Sora, Quezon City

---

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

Message of Thanks

The Family of the late

PEK LIAN (MARY) SY TAN

wish to express their heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who comforted and condoled them, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, cards of sympathy, and donations, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and who in countless ways helped them in their time of bereavement.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital invites interested bidders to bid for:

		ABC
1.	Supply and delivery of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG, refill – estimated quantity = 7,000 kgs.)	– P 378,000.00/year
2.	Provision of Laundry Services	– P 5,073,460.00/year

	Estimated Quantity	Unit Cost
Lot I –	290,000 pcs.	P 5.50/pc.
Lot II –	358,000 pcs.	9.65/pc.
Lot III –	900 pcs.	26.40/pc.

Bid documents may be secured at the BAC Secretariat, Administrative Office upon payment of a non-refundable fee. For details, please contact telephone no. 735-7144.

All particulars relative to eligibility, bid security, performance security, pre-bid conference, opening of bids, evaluation, post-qualification and award shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

Schedule of Activities:

	Date/Time	Venue
Pre-Bid conference	October 15, 2007	Reception Hall, 2:00 p.m.
Bid Opening: LPG	October 26, 2007	Reception Hall: LPG – 1:30 p.m.
Laundry	October 26, 2007	Laundry – 3:00 p.m.

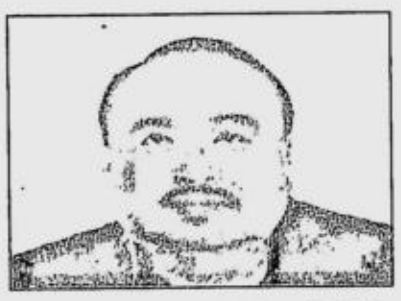
The DJFMH reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality found therein and to accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government.

The DJFMH-BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) ELISEA S. MARQUEZ, MD, D.P.B.A.
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – October 7, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



MANUEL IGNO LIM
AKA: BRUCE MANLIM, MANNY

ROSEMIN GRACE N. PAREJA
AKA: GRACE, GRACIA, ROSE

WARRANTS OF ARREST has been issued against Manuel Igno Lim & Rosemin Grace N. Pareja of Audio-Lab Corp. / Smart Gadgets / Smart Image – Photography (USA) both of **64 Mt.Vernon St, Filinvest-1 Homes**, Capitol District, Batasan Hills, Quezon City & w/ USA address at :

456 EL Dorado Drive, Daly City, CA 94015 USA (California)

whose pictures appear above by the Regional Trial Court - Branch 218, Nat'l Capital Judicial Region, Quezon City w/ **Criminal Case no.** Q – 07 - 146961.

Another Warrant of Arrest of Manuel Lim w/ **Criminal Case no.** 139516 issued by Quezon City - MTC, Branch 42 for Violation of PD -1866. Pls direct any informations leading to their arrest to Phil. Nat'l Police - J.Garcia (0905) 360 - 4783

Rewards will be given to any information leading to their successful arrest.

(PDI - Oct. 7 & 8, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MR. RUIZ S. RODELAS is no longer connected with **VLM MEDICAL / DENTAL EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES** effective ***September 15, 2007.*** Any transaction entered into or made through him for the company shall not be recognized.

(PDI – October 7, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **ENTREX, INC.** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI - October 4 – 24, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **Liberty Aviation Corporation** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI – October 4 – 24, 2007)

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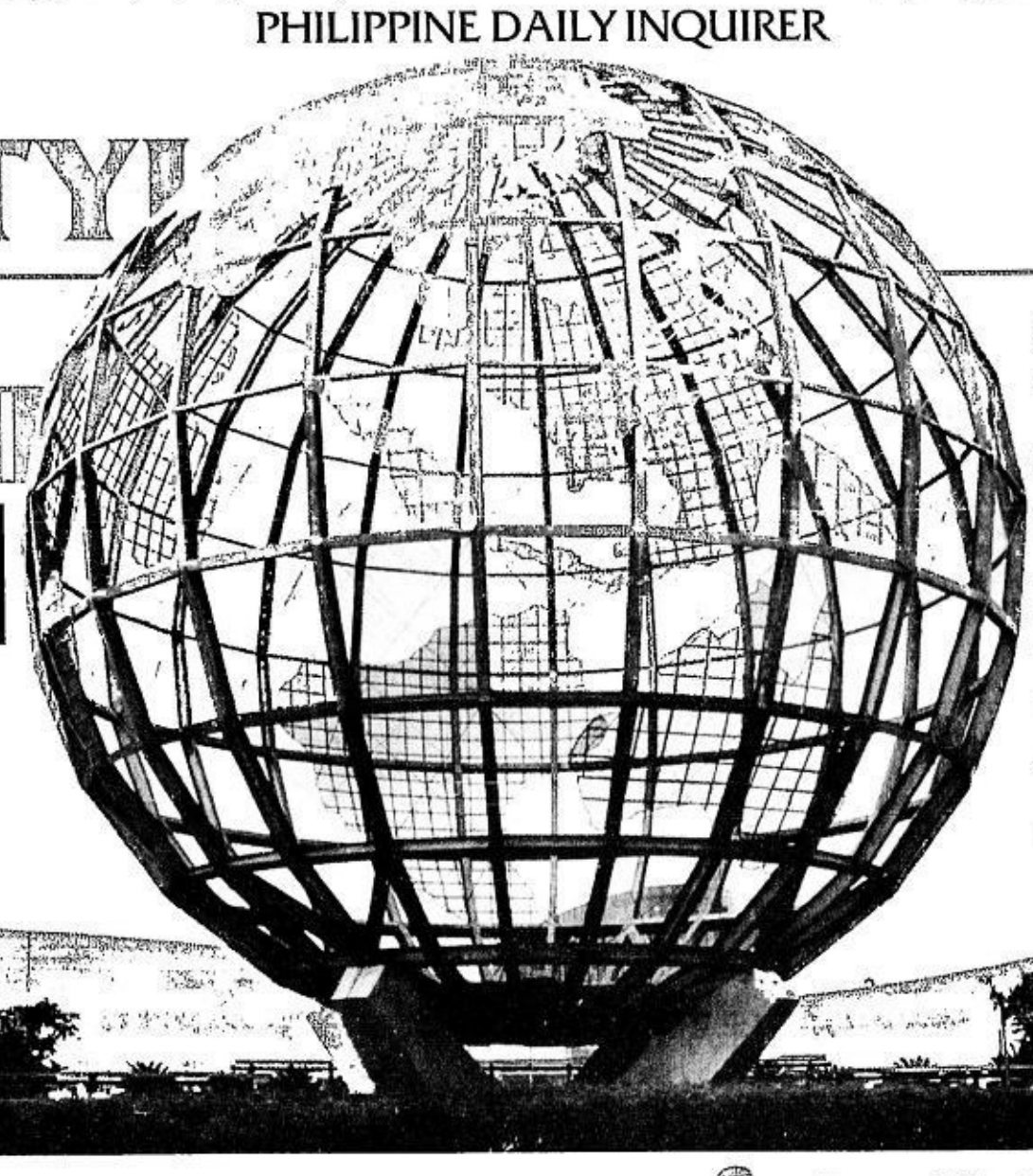
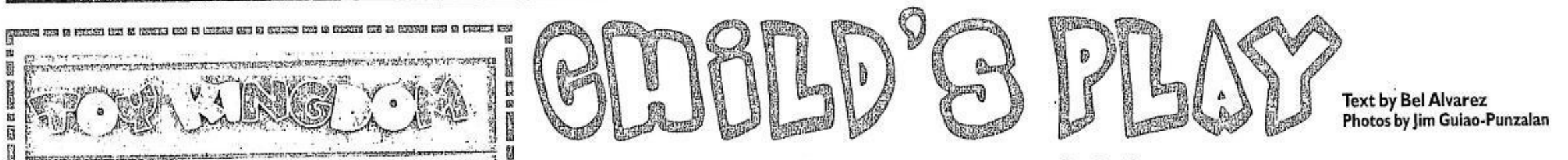
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Contributing Editor **Agoo Azcuna-Bengzon**

It's a Small World



Go ahead and take the kids! The Mall of Asia isn't just a one-stop shopping destination for adults. It's a haven for the young ones, too. They certainly have it all—from great fashion finds and wholesome reads to mouth-watering treats and endless fun and games



CHILD'S PLAY

Text by Bel Alvarez
Photos by Jim Guiao-Punzalan

Add some sparkle into your child's eyes. Know where to go and indulge your youngster's fancy

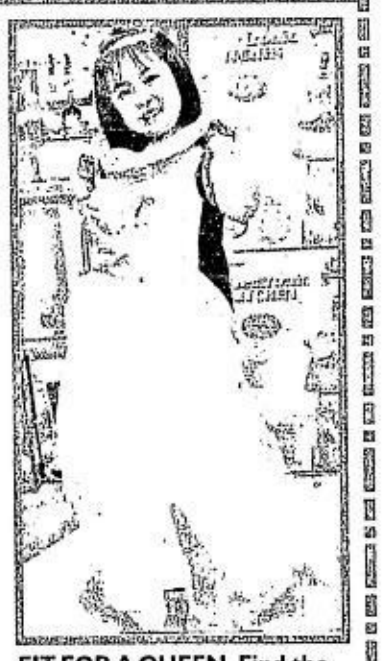
TOY KINGDOM

FULLY LOADED. Toy Kingdom has every toy imaginable, and is every kid's dream come true.

Like knights guarding the entrance to a castle, five-foot-tall Mickey Mouse and Winnie The Pooh, with Lego men on either side, greet you when you enter Toy Kingdom. Established in 1995, this toy superstore was awarded the Category Killer Award during the 2006 Outstanding Filipino Retailers of the Year event.

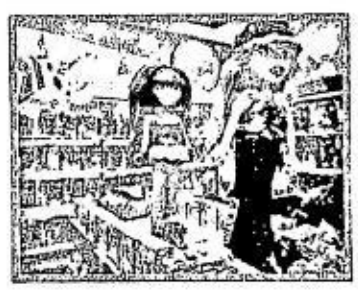
In the store itself, you'll immediately see the Tween Zone (pre-teen accessories) and Halloween costume racks but what you won't help but gravitate to will be the IZone. This is where young techies can locate very imaginable electronic toy or game. The Discovery Zone is another area worth exploring as it is loaded with only the best educational toys and board games. Right next door, you'll find the Active Zone, an area where balls, bikes and hoops for all ages can be found.

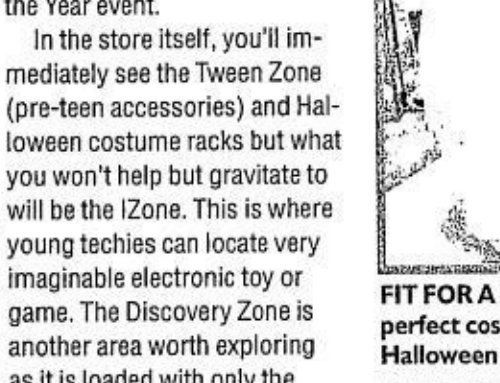
Elsewhere in the store, you will notice the front of a life-sized jeep protruding through a wall—this marks the Speed World territory. All incarnations of remote-controlled cars zoom past anyone near this area. Lastly, there's the Anime portion where children can get to meet their favorite Japanese cartoon heroes up close.



FIT FOR A QUEEN. Find the perfect costume this Halloween at Toy Kingdom.

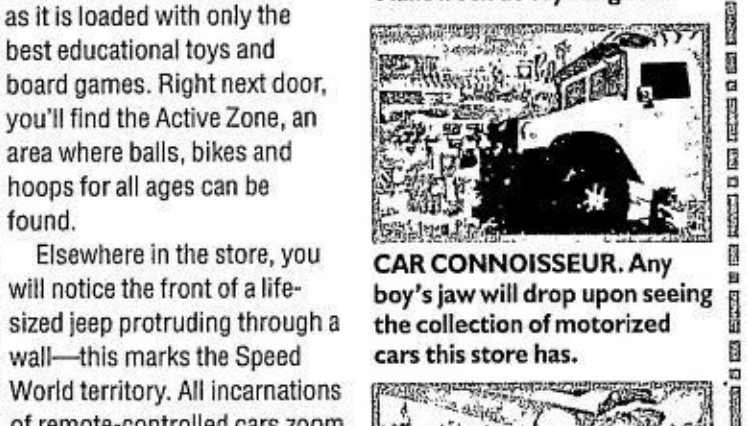
CAR CONNOISSEUR. Any boy's jaw will drop upon seeing the collection of motorized cars this store has.

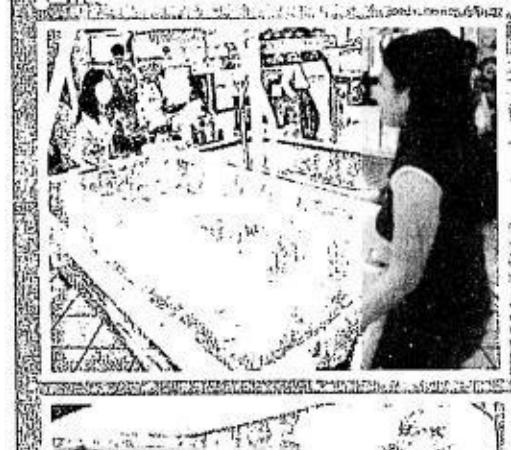


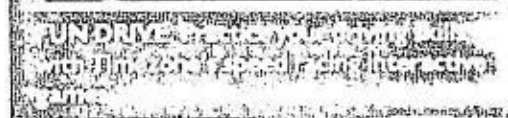


BRAT PACK. This toy haven has the complete line of the latest craze for girls, Bratz.

HOT SHOT. Play to your heart's content using the latest Hot Wheels race tracks and cars.







IZONE

Tween Zone and Family Entertainment Center, Zone 8 is an extensive range of gaming options. With Super Trivia in the middle, several rides at the Music Zone in the back, the rest of the space is filled with a large collection of simulation and redemption games. An area has basketball and bowling machines while another has dance, guitar and drum machines. Aside from the immensely popular car and motorbike race machines, one can also indulge in a couple of minutes of trampolining, bowling around one couple make a good mental game to think of a machine that may don't have.

Established here Philippines in 1997, Timezone makes use of a highly efficient power card system. The plastic card does away with the hassle of coins and is much like an ATM card. Each card is used to power a game machine or rides that can play an endless number of games, depending on how much is loaded into his or her card. Its redemption games offer easy ways to win prizes. Cigarette free and air-conditioned, Timezone is an excellent place to bring the whole family.

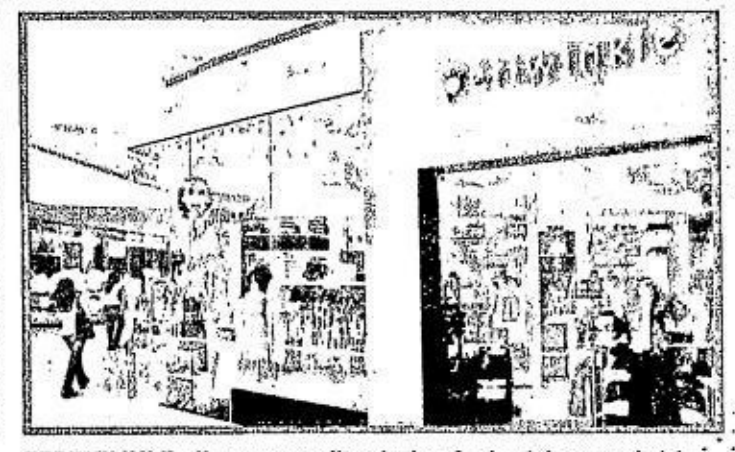
TOM'S WORLD

WINNING FORMULA. Challenging games and unique prizes are what Tom's World patrons keep coming back for.

One of today's fastest growing chains of Family Entertainment and Amusement Centers in the city, Tom's World provides an assortment of amusement facilities in a brightly lit atmosphere. Interspersed among the video-shooting and driving arcades are sports and safari video game machines. Pint-sized machines are available to little kids while a mini air hockey table and tiny pinball machine are easily accessible too. One can also take a trip on the compact merry-go-round, and hop on on other kiddie rides.

While the kids enjoy themselves, parents can pass the time wisely by playing the Western Dream, a machine where the prizes are tokens. Families and groups of friends can also have fun singing in the private videoke soundproof music booths.

Tom's World uses a centralized redemption system for easy exchange to prizes.



PERIWINKLE

PERIWINKLE offers top quality clothes for both boys and girls.

With over 25 years of experience in children's clothing and design, Periwinkle's attention to detail is its trademark. Their intricate embroidery, beadwork and smocking combined with soft fabrics in almost every color of the rainbow will make dressing up for a kiddie party or Sunday brunch fun for both mothers and their stylish kids.

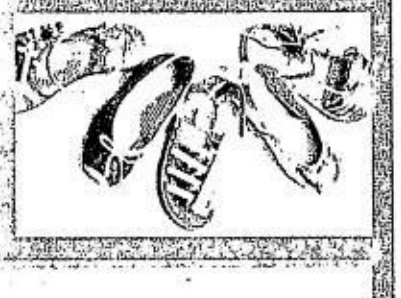
TWO FASHION PACK

For your young fashionistas and trendsetters, let them experiment with the latest fashion picks in these hip and happening stores

Photos by Jim Guiao-Punzalan

GINGERSNAPS

For fun fashion that's trendy, not silly, Gingersnaps offers versatile, chic, practical yet pretty maternity clothes to adorable children's clothes and accessories. Starting them on the right fashion path as early as conception, Gingersnaps' trademark prints and soothing color will make you and your kids effortlessly stand out in any fashion playground.

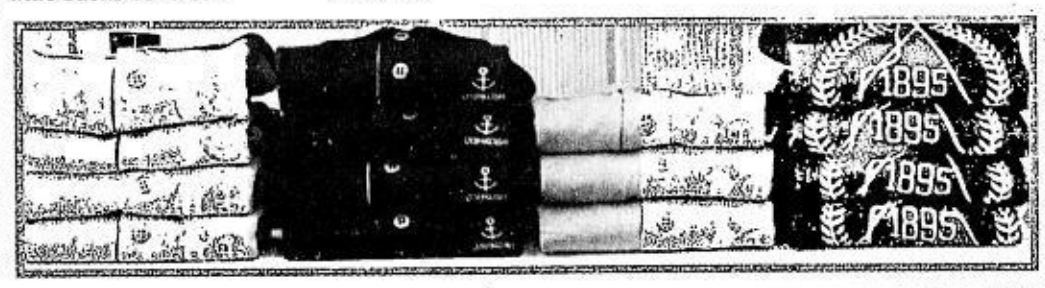


MODERN LOVE Gingersnaps' trendy maternity clothes are perfect for the modern mom.

OSHKOSH B'GOSH

Being "America's favorite fashion brand since 1895," OshKosh knows what looks cute and fun. From their trademark denim jumpers to their punchy colors and prints, OshKosh makes fashionable clothes your little ones can have fun in. You can let them roll and tumble around knowing that OshKosh has their little backs covered.

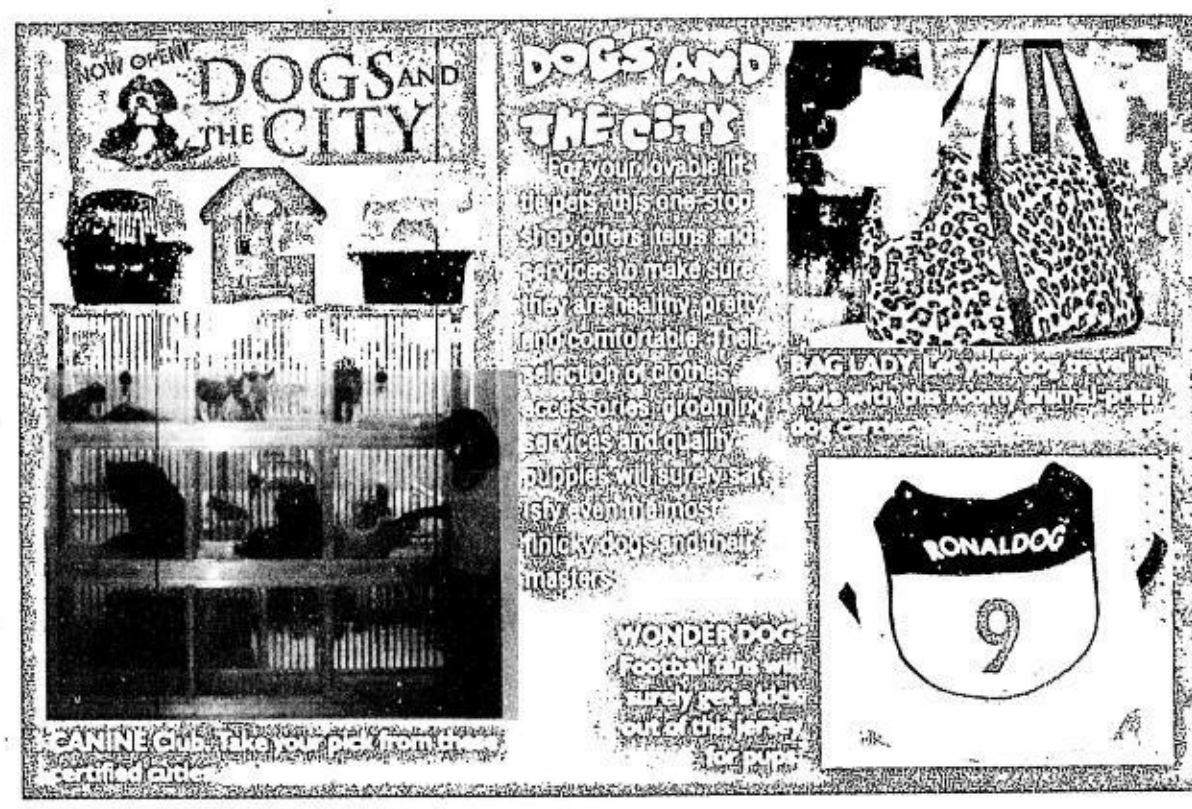
OSHKOSH B'Gosh is the best place to get sporty tees and bottoms.



COMIC ALLEY

This is the place to go to for animé T-shirts and pillows to character stickers and figurines. Comic Alley's extensive merchandise selection from around the globe will surely tickle any young collector's fancy.

CHEER LEADER. Comic Alley is loaded with the best fun reads on this side of the planet.



DOGS AND THE CITY

For your lovable lil' darlings, this one-stop shop offers items and services to make sure they are healthy, pretty and comfortable – that selection of clothes, accessories and grooming services and quality supplies will surely suit even the most finicky dogs and their masters.

WONDER DOG

Football fans will surely get a kick out of this [illegible]

BAG LADY [illegible]

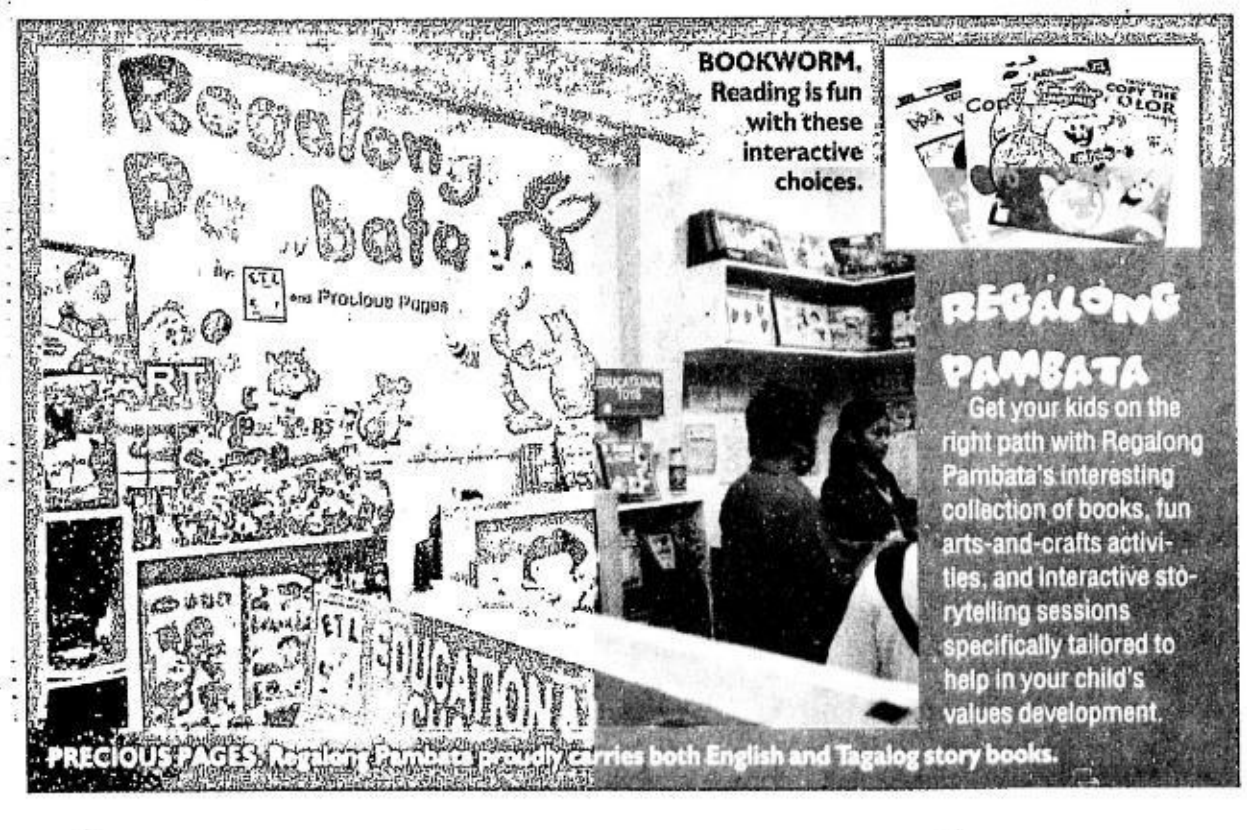
TINY TREATS

Start a collection or just have fun with kitschy toys, hi-tech gadgets, adorable pets and easy-to-read books

HUMOR POST

Have fun choosing gift items, and make the recipient truly happy, with quality gift and novelty items from Humor Post. Their international collection of high-quality and famous brands will surely bring a smile to your face no matter what the reason or season.

PUPPY LOVE. Humor Post's stuffed animals are perennial bestsellers.

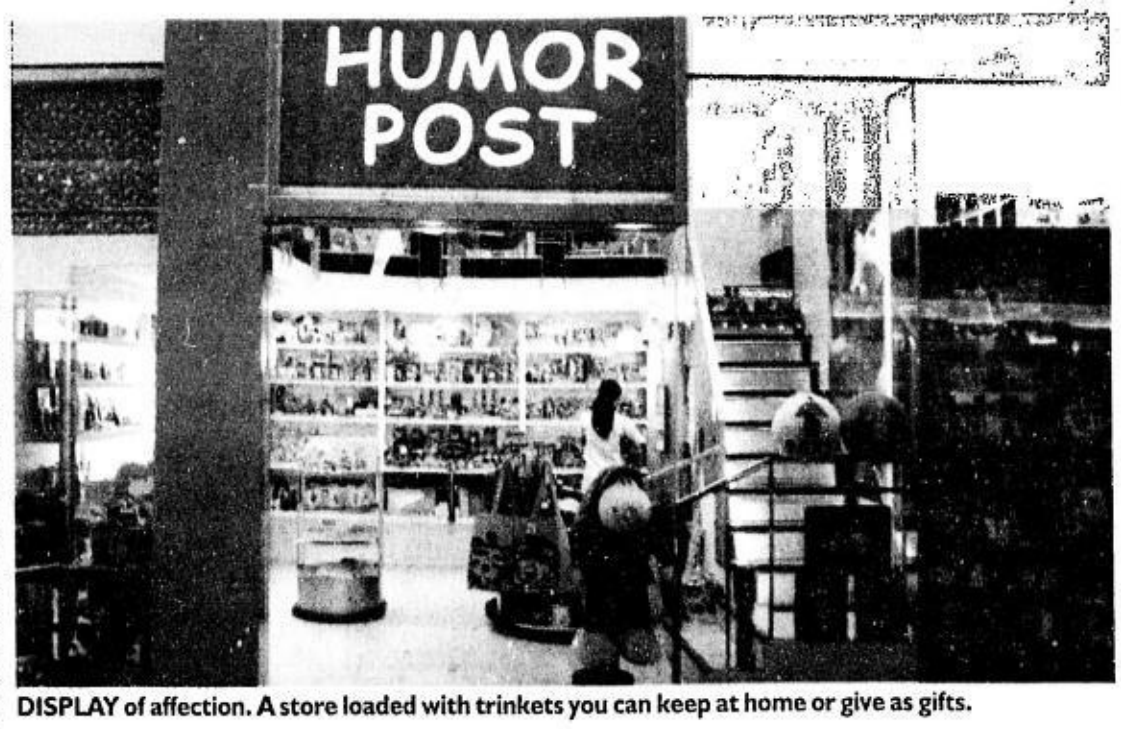


BOOKWORM. Reading is fun with these interactive choices.

REGALONG PAMBATA

Get your kids on the right path with Regalong Pambata's interesting collection of books, fun arts-and-crafts activities, and interactive storytelling sessions specifically tailored to help in your child's values development.

PRECIOUS PAGES. Regalong Pambata proudly carries both English and Tagalog story books.



DISPLAY of affection. A store loaded with trinkets you can keep at home or give as gifts.

YUMMY FOR THE TUMMY

Photos by Jim Guiao-Punzalan

If you're making the trek to the country's largest mall with kids in tow, the last thing you'll want to do is drag the family from one end to the other, looking for a fun place to eat. We've singled out five surefire hits the kids will love, where you won't be shortchanged for fun and food

STARS AND STRIPES

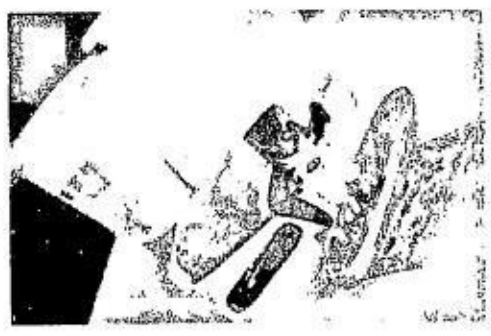
Unique to Stars and Stripes is a collection of kiddie meals that take their kids do brunch with you. American-style Mini Pancakes, French Toast with Eggs and Hot Waffles with Eggs make for a great start to the day. Served with cereal or milk. For something savory, kids can get kiddie meals in Spaghetti with Cheese or Fish and Fries.

KIDS get a little bit of everything at Pizza Hut Bistro.

PIZZA HUT BISTRO

Pizza Hut Bistro's contemporary chic interiors and gourmet pizzas don't mean kids don't get to have fun. With their own menu, little diners get to eat child-size bistro-style fries, adorable Buddy Pan Pizzas, Jr. Spaghetti and Mud Pie Sundae Jr., plus, every drink comes in a Pizza Pooch Kiddie Tumbler.

GET your Happy Meals at McDonald's and make other kids happy, too.



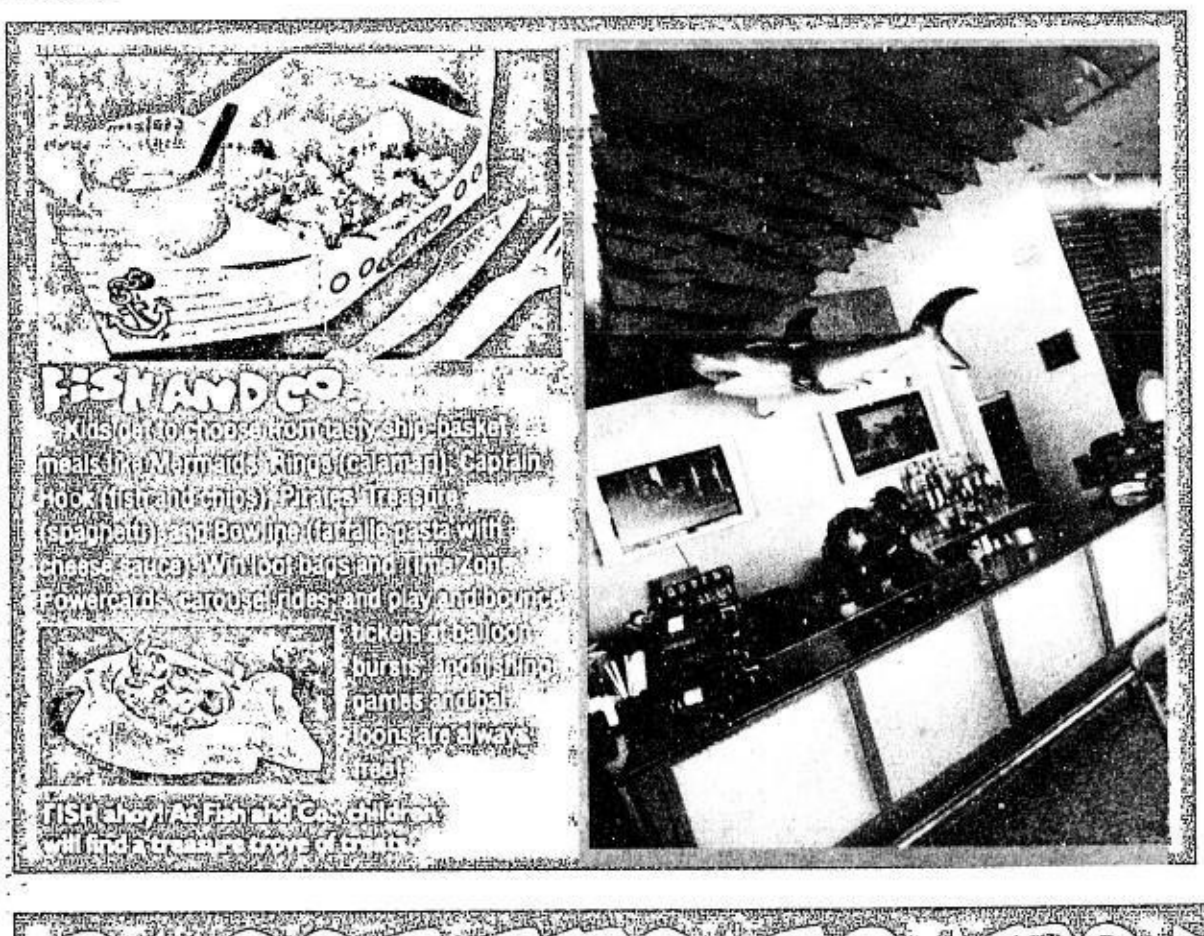
McDONALD

Who knew a trip to McDonald's could be both fun and meaningful? Next time the kids gear up for their Happy Meals, ask them to bring old books to donate. McDonald's distributes books to Ronald McDonald's charities through their Bright Minds Program, to help less-fortunate kids read, learn and empower themselves. What a great way to start the weekend!

BURGOO values every kid who walks into the restaurant.

BURGOO

At Burgoo, crayons and table-size paper tops are just the start to every kid's Burgoo experience. Their Kids Menu offers hearty Burgoo dishes for kids like Chicken Tender Fries, Mini Hamburgoo with Fries, Kiddie Pizzas and Spaghetti. For dessert? They'll love Kiddie Smoothies in Cookies and Cream and Peanut Butter, and Burgoo's Kiddie Sundaes.



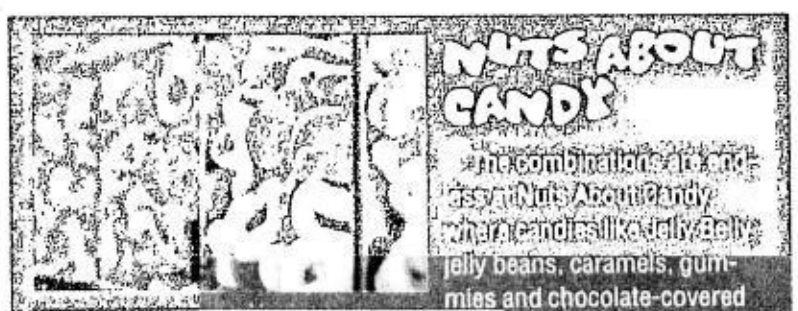
FISH AND GO

Kids get to choose from tasty chip-basket meals like Mermaid's Rings (calamari), Captain Hook (fish and chips), Pirates' Treasure (spaghetti) and Bowline (farfalle pasta with cheese sauce). Whirlpool bags and Time Zone Powercards, carousel rides, and play out bounce tickets at balloon bursts, mini-bingo games and ball toss are all-ways neat!

FISH ahoy! At Fish and Co., children will find a treasure trove of treats.

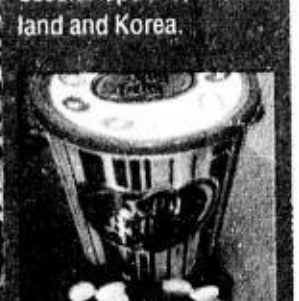
SWEET TREATS ARE MADE OF THESE

If your family's going to indulge its sweet tooth, it might as well be with these fresh pastries and candies

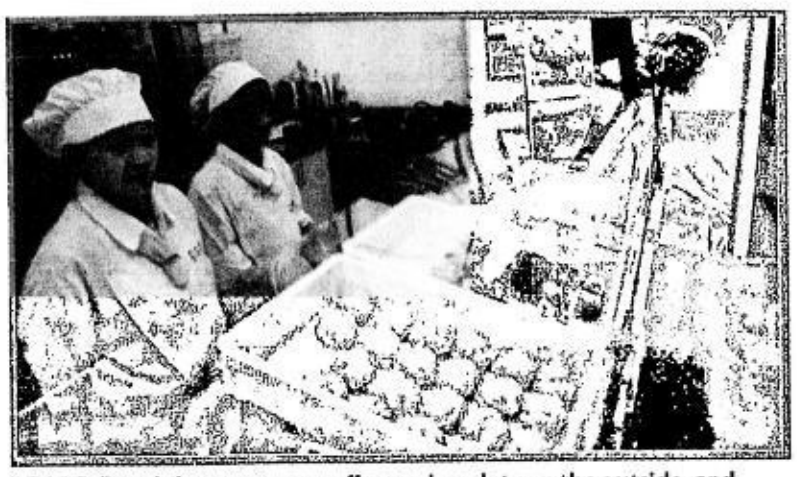


NUTS ABOUT CANDY

In combinations as cool as Nuts About Candy's charcandies like Jelly Belly jelly beans, caramels, gummies and chocolate-covered nuts are scooped from bins, weighed and enjoyed however you want to. You'll also be happy to know that their bulk candies and toys come from safe sources in the United States, Europe, Canada, Czech Republic, Thailand and Korea.



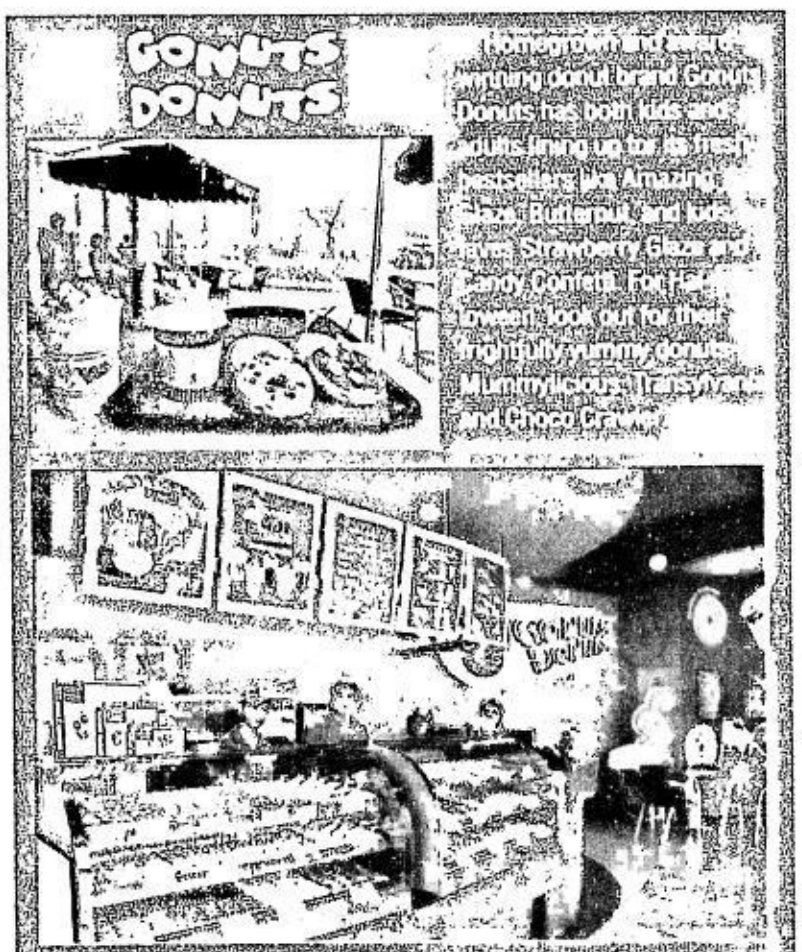
YOU'll be won't be the only one scooping candy at Nuts About Candy.



BEARD Papa's latest cream puffs are chocolaty on the outside, and fresh and creamy on the inside.

BEARD PAPA

Beard Papa's classic cream puffs have been upgraded for kiddie approval! In five new variants, Beard Papa cream puffs now come in Black Choco Chip, White Choco Chip, Choco Fudge, Choco Nuts and Choco Black Flakes. All are filled with fresh vanilla custard cream only upon purchase, so your puff is always light and crisp.



DONUTS DONUTS

Donuts has been kids and [illegible] bestselling Mr. Amazing Crazy Buttercream Blue Stripe, Candy Confetti, Fat Head, Powdered Sugar Twist, Hollow Jelly Donut, Mango Coconut Cross, Mr. Chocolate.

LITTLE WONDERS

By Bel Alvarez
Photos by Jim Guiao-Punzalan

Surround your baby with love and a little help using functional (and stylish!) items from these cool and complete infant stores.

FEET FIRST. Get your baby to take his or her first steps in style with fab and comfy footwear.

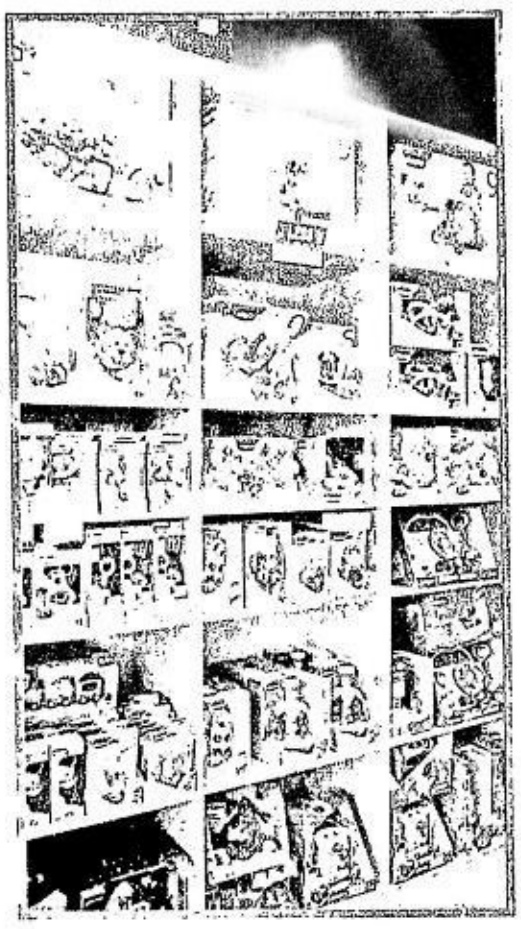
ROCK STAR. Babies love to be lulled to sleep or allowed to play in this multifunction chair.

BABY COMPANY

Inside the SM Department Store, on the second floor, is a large corner dedicated to baby needs. Called Baby Company, it is a one-stop shop with rows of baby stuff that contain anything and everything you may need for a newborn, all the way to a 3-year-old. Baby essentials like bottles, teethers, baby wipes, diapers and breast pumps are on the shelves together with tubs, comforters, baby clothes, shoes, pillows, puzzlemats and nebulizers. At the back, you will find high chairs, strollers, swings and toys.

Baby Company also offers different brands of infant wear, toys, and accessories from popular and well-loved brands like Enfant and Chicco.

FANCY BABY. Chicco is best known for its stylishly colorful infant wear.



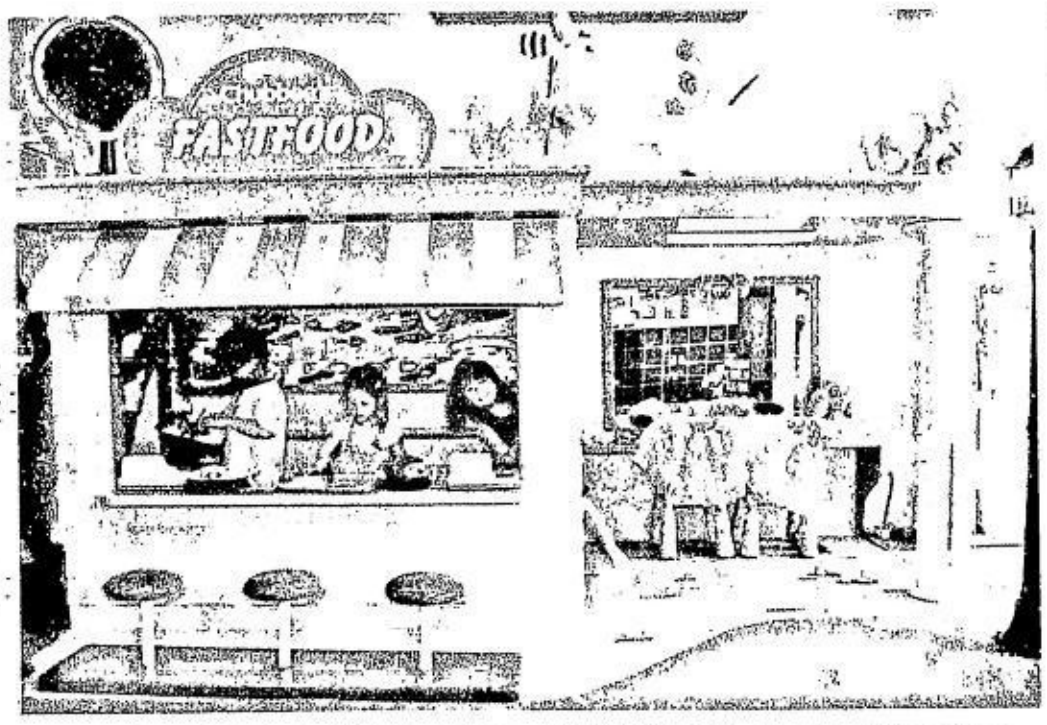
BABY BOOM. Chicco is stocked with everything from ergonomic baby bottles to educationally entertaining toys.

FRESH-FACED. Chicco also offers skincare and fragrance specially for baby's sensitive skin.

chicco

One will certainly appreciate the organization once you enter the Chicco shop. Here, it is very easy to find baby clothes one particularly needs. Apparel are segregated into 0m+, 5m+ and 12m+ so you can spot what you need right away. In addition to playpens, baby carriers and humidifiers, there are also numerous infant carseats, and, believe it or not, shades made just for baby!

Chicco brand was founded in 1958 in Italy by Pietro Catelli. In the Philippines, it is on its ninth year of distributing simple and safe products specific for each growth phase, from newborn up to 4 years old.

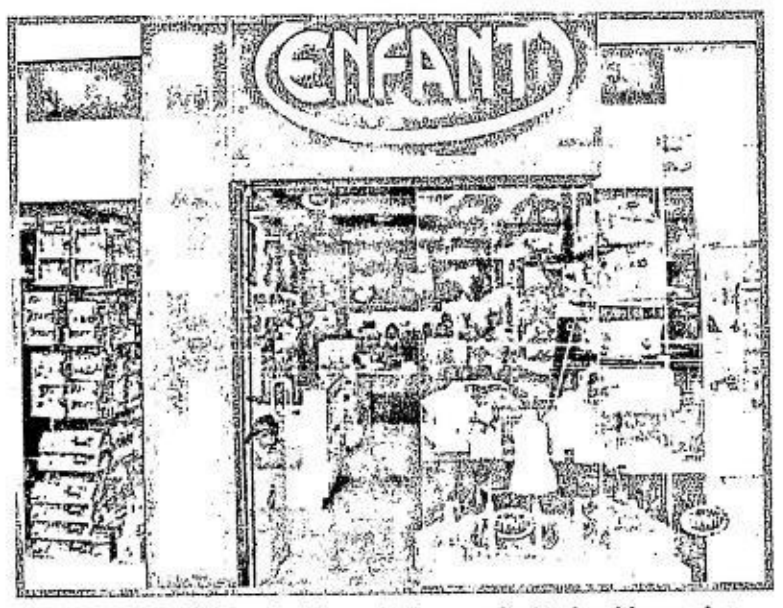


KIDZ REPUBLIC

Active kids will love this safari-themed indoor playground. This huge playground is like an obstacle course. Kids up to 12 years old can enjoy swinging on trapeze bars, climbing on rope ladders, navigating through tubes, hanging on bridges, at cannons and go on slides and disappear into pools of colored balls. This is complemented with arcade games to help reinforce creativity as well as motor and social skills.

Besides Kidz Republic, there are also an Ice Cream House. Kids can have their birthday parties here and feast on spaghetti, burgers, ice cream, cookies, pollito and other delicious treats.

CHILD'S PLAY. Kids can slide over and over again in this gigantic indoor playground.

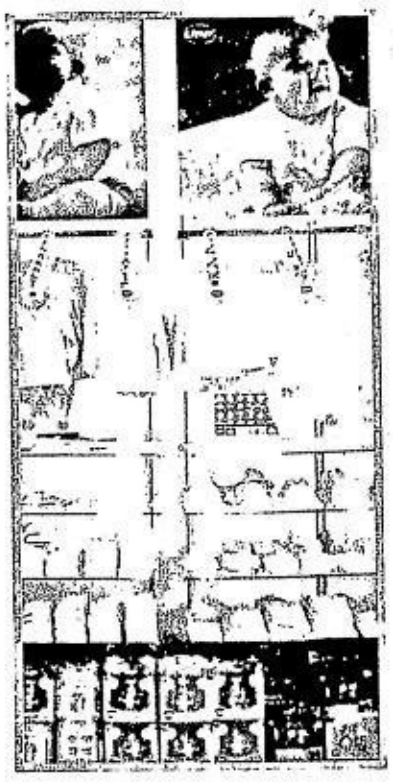


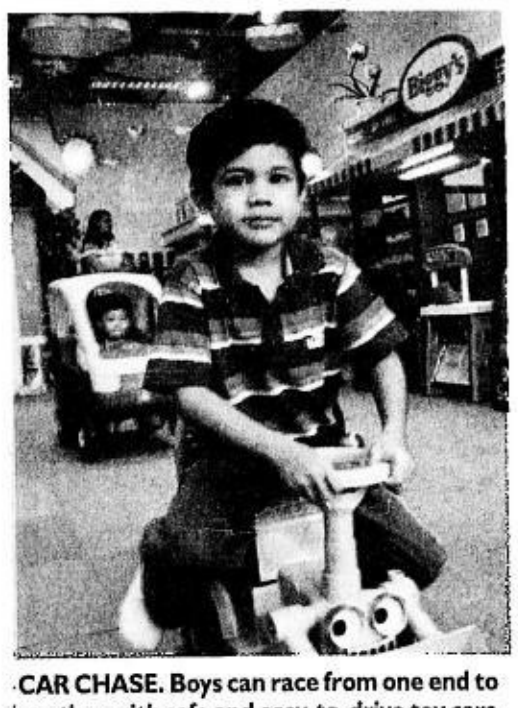
BABY TALK. This Bangkok brand is famous for its durable onesies and sleepwear.

ENFANT

Enfant (än-fän) is the foremost children's wear brand of Bangkok, Thailand-based Thai-Wacoal Public Co. Ltd. Below huge pictures of healthy smiling babies on the walls are clothing for newborns up to 4 years old. Enfant apparel is made of 100-percent natural fabric from Cotton USA and Non-Azo fabric dyes. Aside from toys, the store carries a bedding line of pillows, mattresses and blankets.

Enfant also has its line of hypoallergenic toiletries that includes basics like shampoo, soap and lotion, and others like anti-rash powder and anti-mosquito lotion. Moms can also find reusable and environment-friendly cloth diapers here.





CAR CHASE. Boys can race from one end to another with safe and easy-to-drive toy cars.

ROLE MODEL. Finally, a place where little girls and boys can play all the "pretend" games they want.

DAVE'S FUNHOUSE

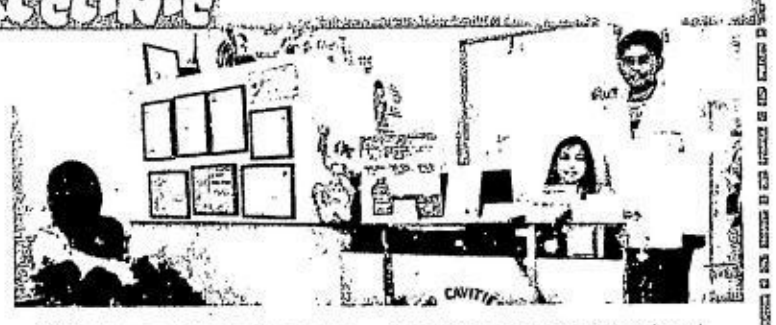
Dave's Funhouse is a mini version of an actual community and observes the principle "children develop a sense of responsibility by role-playing."

A few paces from the furnished house is the hospital where a child can play doctor with a stethoscope. There is also a convenience store, a burger-and-fries fast-food joint and a salon down the road. A fire station with little fireman's jackets and fire extinguishers stands next to the police station, complete with a jail.

Frequented by celebrity children, Dave's Funhouse employs a biometric (fingerprint) recognition system ensuring parents that only the registered guardian will be able to fetch the child.

LITTLE ONES DENTAL CLINIC

TOOTH FAIRY. Gentle hands and a kiddie atmosphere will make your tiny tot adore going to the dentist for a change.



Offering an alternative to the usual stiff feel of a dental clinic, Little Ones Dental Clinic makes children at ease immediately after entering. Dentists Enric Agustin and Ruby Centeno-Agustin and their staff specialize in addressing whatever dental concerns you have for your child.

In the two well-equipped clinics inside are unconventional-looking dental chairs: one is green and the other, blue. You will surely leave this place with a smile on your face.

Little Ones Dental Clinic's highly qualified personnel can do a wide range of services from pediatric dentistry and surgery to orthodontics and prosthodontics. Adults are also welcome.

MY PLAYROOM

JOB Market

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2007
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Operations Manager - Technical Account
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Executive Assistant
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Customer Care Representatives - Email (non-voice)
Technical Customer Care Representatives
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Recruitment Specialists
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OJTs *(Majors in Mass Communication, Media Advertising and Psychology)*

Applicants can come / walk-in from August - October

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NETSUITE

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Systems & Compliance Manager (1)
Systems & Tools Engineers (2)

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The candidate will support key internal customers with insight, custom structures, code, searches & reports that enhance internal workflows & productivity & enforce internal controls. The ideal person will be passionate about finding creative ways to improve employee performance, eliminate/reduce data entry errors & give better visibility to data & trends via the existing capabilities in Netsuite, & via ad-on tools (where necessary).

Job entails scripting & application/tools development for NSCorp projects, including test-drive, demo accounts and Sales proof of concepts, specifically:

- Client-side JavaScript
- Server-side JavaScript
- Tools and Application development in Java and Web Services
- Identifying customer requirements and development of systems that support productivity improvements and enforce corporate policies and procedures
- Customization of forms, fields, online forms and custom records
- Support internal and external audit activities

REQUIREMENTS & QUALIFICATIONS:

Execution / Productivity
Manages workload & priorities to expectations; overcomes obstacles; demonstrates effective planning; meets deadlines; develops & follows work procedures; flexible to changing needs.

Customer Focus / Quality
Understands who internal/external customers are & meets expectations; work is accurate & of high quality; makes continuous process improvements; owns & acts on quality problems.

Communication / Teamwork
Communicates professionally, accurately & punctually, both verbally & in writing; exchanges information & ideas with others; accepts feedback with open mind; manages conflict constructively; participate in cross-functional team projects & roles.

Decision Making/Problem Solving
Recognizes problems & responds; resourceful; open-mindedness; ability to translate problems into practical solutions; ability to separate objective/subjective criteria; can make difficult decisions & communicates them.

Industry Experience: 2 years (for engineer) / 5 years (for manager)
Languages: JavaScript, JAVA, HTML, DHTML, XML, SOAP, SQL
Databases: Oracle
Systems: Windows 2000/XP
Applications: Microsoft Excel, Microsoft.NET Visual Studio

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SYSTEMS & COMPLIANCE MANAGER:

The candidate will lead and supervise off-shore team of Systems & Tools Engineers.

Leadership / Employee Development:
Aligns individual & company objectives; develops a cohesive team & delegates effectively; inspires respect & confidence; recognizes & coaches effectively; promotes employee development & training; hires high performers & supports diversity; provides a safe workplace.

Senior NT System Administrator

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The candidate will be responsible for providing desktop and server support primarily to Netsuite's Philippines employees and occasionally to NetSuite's employees located in the Pacific Rim. This position requires 24/7 availability. The most critical aspect of this position is the ability to complete IT projects and tasks independently.

- Plans, documents, and communicates all changes to desktop systems minimizing customer disruption.
- Plans, documents, and communicates all changes to server systems minimizing customer disruption.
- Basic Networking skills for identifying, resolving and reporting internet issues.
- Installs, tests and implements server operating systems upgrades and enhancements.
- Responds to emergency calls relating to server and desktop performance, diagnosis of problems and resolving issues.
- Maintain data integrity and security of desktop and server software.
- Create system images for desktops, laptops and server.
- Build desktop and laptop systems from an image.
- Ability to diagnose and resolve desktop and mobile computing issues.
- Monitor Error logs and provide routine maintenance to mission critical servers.
- Research and recommend security solution for desktop computers and servers.
- Procure office computers and computer related equipment.
- Be a part of an on call rotation that does 24x7 monitoring, and be accessible via cell phone.
- Take training courses that align with corporate objectives to bridge skill gaps and learn new relevant technologies.

REQUIREMENTS & QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum of 5 years experience as a system administrator, working in a Microsoft Windows environment.
- MCSE NT/2000/2003 preferred.
- Proficient in Windows 2000 and 2003 Server technology – setting up, deploying and managing Windows servers.
- Proficient in Microsoft Active Directory.
- Telecom experience for both Analog and VOIP systems.
- Knowledge of Exchange e-mail administration, experience in setting up an Exchange email server from start to finish is a plus.
- Experience with setting up VPN across sites.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships at all levels.
- This person will need to be located within 45 mile radius of the Netsuite office in the Philippines.
- With excellent communication skills, can set and manage priorities, a good team-player and can work independently.

TECHNICAL MUST:

- Windows NT/2000/2003 architecture, implementation, monitoring, troubleshooting.
- Active Directory Administration
- Exchange Server Administration
- OS Protocols/Applications (DNS, DHCP)
- Telecom Experience

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Qualification:
- ☐ Registered Nurse With English Exam (IELTS, TOEFL ibt, etc.)
- ☐ Male/Female 23 to 50 years old
- ☐ 5 yrs work experience, preferably in a tertiary hospital in the ff. Areas: ICU/CCU, OR, SICU, PEDA/NICU, Psychiatric unit
- ☐ Minimum 2 yrs experience will be accepted for applicants with exceptional work experience.
- ☐ Successful CARNA assessment is an ADVANTAGE

Benefit Package:
- ✓$ 25 CAD/hr as Graduate Nurse
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- ✓Overtime Rate 2x regular hourly rate
- ✓Evening, night and weekend premiums
- ✓Relocation Assistance Up to $5,000 CAD including airfare for principal and applicant only
- ✓Permanent residency opportunity for applicant & Family
- ✓Employer cover Permanent Residence Fee and processing Fee up to $1,525.00

Initial Requirements
- ✓Comprehensive Resume with 2x2 Picture
- ✓PRC License, Board Rating
- ✓Diploma, TOR, RLE
- ✓Certificate of Employment
- ✓Reference Letter
- ✓Training Certificates
- ✓ English Exam Result ;IELTS, TOEFL Etc.

Reimbursable Payment:
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- ✓CARNA Temporary Permit
- ✓Work Permit Extension Fee
- ✓Initial Work Permit

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Result oriented, systematic, and well organized
3) Must have excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and can create good impression.
Extrovert, but can work alone. Very pleasing personality.
4) Above average intelligence, self-motivated and can work without supervision
5) Ambitious, highly motivated, aggressive, persistent, and hardworking, can drive & with valid driver's license

Marketing Assistant

He / She will mainly do marketing research and analysis. He / she must be resourceful, with initiative, and with ambition to rise in the marketing field.
Qualifications:
1) College graduate, male or female
2) With strong aptitude toward marketing work. Likes field work and traveling.
3) Must have excellent communication skills,
4) Above average intelligence, self-motivated, can work without supervision
5) Ambitious, highly motivated, and hardworking.

Marketing Manager

He / She is responsible for creating brand equity for SMPC textbooks.
He / She will prepare and execute a marketing plan to meet organizational objectives.
Qualifications:
1) He / She must be a true manager and leader
2) Mature, decisive, and emotionally stable
3) Ambitious and highly motivated, Self-driven and diligent
4) Systematic and well-organized, has excellent communication and interpersonal skills
5) Must have at least five years of marketing experience
6) Must have one or two years of management experience, preferably with a master's degree in business administration.

Manager for the Editorial Department

He / She will manage a pool of Editors of textbooks for the elementary and secondary levels. He / she will liaison with authors. He / she will take charge of the company's R & D activities.
Qualifications:
1) Graduate of education, or at least completed the Teacher Certificate Program
2) With at least 15 MBA units
3) Knowledge of the printing process is desired
4) At least 30 years, male or female
5) Ambitious, highly motivated, and hardworking
6) Excellent ability to judge and motivate people
7) Must have excellent communication and interpersonal skills
8) Superior managerial and leadership skills.

Accounting Manager

He / She manages, leads, and guides the accounting team to the efficient and effective recording of the company's business transactions, continuously improve financial processes, and implement best practices.
Qualifications:
1) He / She must be a true manager and leader
2) Mature, decisive, and emotionally stable
3) Self-driven and diligent
4) Systematic and well-organized
5) Must have at least five years of accounting experience
6) Must have one to two years of management experience
7) Preferably with a master's degree in business administration.

Sales Operations Manager

He / She is responsible for supporting the Sales Department to meet organizational objectives.
Sales support and warehouse units are under him / her.
Qualifications:
1) He / She must be a true manager and leader
2) Mature, decisive, and emotionally stable, Self-driven and diligent
3) Systematic and well-organized, has excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

Send your detailed bio-data and recent photo (at least 2x2) to Personnel Dept., SMPC Bldg., 1308 P. Guevarra cor. E. Remigio Streets; Sta. Cruz, Manila. Tel.: 7351221-22
Please indicate salary desired. Interviewees will be notified individually.

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Project Manager (1)

- Project Management and Leadership Skills (Experience managing complex projects and managing people)
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- Ability to work well in a team environment
- Educated, smart, and a hard worker
- Trustworthy, and a good person at heart
- Passion for Music and Arts
- Ability to contribute to the "morale/fun" of the project

Graphic Artist (4)

- Research, Design, Layout of :
  - Website (music, art, creative writing), Logos and other Multimedia requirements
  - Interactive instructional guide for applications/systems
  - Documents, reports, forms, brochures, banners, posters
- Provide graphics in support of various departmental staff (Company wide)

Database/Web Programmers (3)

Responsibility:
- Develops programs based on Java, PHP, and MySQL Languages
- Ensure backups and recovery plans are working and up-to-date
- Testing and deployment of new systems and/or software

Requirements:
- 2+ years experience but not limited to the following Programming Languages:
  - Primary Skills: Java (J2EE), PHP, MySQL
  - Secondary Skills: VB, .NET, C, C#, Perl
- Excellent knowledge of Internet technologies (e.g. Servlets, JSPs, XML)
- Excellent understanding of Internet protocols (e.g. HTTP, FTP)
- Experienced in documentation of processes procedures and network

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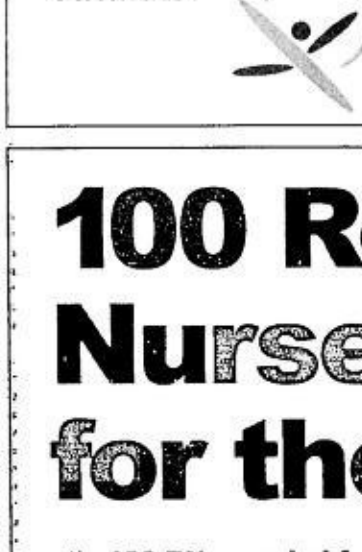

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Telephone (02) 8437566 POEA Lic. No. 159-LB-102606-R

The University Research Co. LLC (URC) seeks a Chief of Party for its USAID-funded Health Promotion and Communication Project (HealthPro) in the Philippines. This project collaborates with the Department of Health and local institutions to assist Local Government Units (LGU) in 29 provinces in the promotion of healthy behaviors in the country. Responsibilities include:

CHIEF OF PARTY

Health Promotion and Communication Project (HealthPro)

Specific Responsibilities:

1. Provide overall strategic and managerial leadership of the project in collaboration with all of the major stakeholders;
2. Provide management oversight on all project activities ensuring that they stay relevant to the goals of the project;
3. Assist in the identification of all project technical assistance needs required to achieve the expected outputs of the Contract;
4. Develop scopes of work, recruitment of consultants, and execution of technical assistance contracts;
5. Design management systems with standard operating procedures; and
6. Operationalize an annual project planning cycle which formulates comprehensive annual contact workplans and budgets in accordance with the USAID annual planning cycle and assures timely disbursement of funds.

Desired Qualifications:

- Minimum 10 to 15 years of solid international experience in managing large-scale health promotions and behavior change communication projects;
- Advanced degree in communication, social and behavioral sciences; or other related fields, including health sciences or public health supplemented by a degree in mass media or communication;
- At least 10 years of documented experience in relevant communication work particularly in the development and implementation of local BCC/IPC strategies, institutional development and capacity building, and working with mass media companies in the Philippines and other developing countries;
- Successful prior experience in directly advising high-level national and local government officials and civil society leaders, preferably in the Philippines;
- Experience in managing donor-funded programs and working with USAID and other donors preferred;
- Familiarity and understanding of health issues including health promotions and behavior change communication concerns in health;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to interact with government officials and international donors;
- Proven dynamic and strategic leadership.

Application Instructions:

Send application letter and CV to: **gperla@urc-chs.com** by October 15, 2007. No telephone inquiries, please.

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A fast growing consumer goods company is in need of sales professionals with these qualifications:

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B) Willing to do field sales work for modest basic pay but attractive commission rates

C) At least three will be placed in Metro Manila; one in Central Luzon; One in Cebu

D) Candidates may be Male or Female, 23 to 40, results oriented.

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The Strengthening Assets and Capacities of Communities and Local Governments for Resilience to Disasters (ACCORD) Project, is searching for qualified candidates for:

PROJECT OFFICER

The work primarily involves the implementation of a Community-based Disaster Reduction Project in Dingalan, Aurora. S/he will be part of the Field Office Team for Dingalan. As part of the Project Team, s/he will contribute to implementing the project; assist in designing and preparing disaster reduction project proposals; take part in supervising the implementation of complementary disaster reduction projects; participate in project reporting, monitoring, and evaluation; assist in documenting best practices; and provide technical backstopping.

Applicants should have at least a bachelor's degree and 3 years relevant experience in social development, preferably in the area of disaster management. S/he must possess excellent analytical skills, the appropriate values consistent with social development work, good communication and interpersonal skills, competent written English and be computer literate. This item will be for 6 months and will require posting in Dingalan, Aurora. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted for interview. Email **arcilla@care.org.ph** for full details of the job description and qualifications. Submit application and résumé on or before Oct. 15, 2007 to: The ACCORD Project Manager, CARE Liaison Office in the Philippines, 3rd Flr., Luisa 2 Bldg., 107 Maginhawa St., Teachers Village East, Quezon City, Tel. No. 9288246, Telefax: 9290798 or to arcilla@care.org.ph.

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Responsibilities
- Will be responsible for monitoring sales volume and revenue as well as formulate marketing strategies to further increase market share
- Must be able to motivate his team

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- Male, between 24 to 29 years old
- Height – strictly at least 5'5"
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- To be assigned to cover Mindanao accounts
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- ☑ Male or Female; 20-28 years old
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- Familiar with e-commerce process flow and back-end systems development, websites to web applications, reporting systems, front-end/back-end integration
- Can handle several projects involving content management systems and/or user registration databases
- Good at problem-solving, trouble-shooting, analysis and proposing solutions on various support issues
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You may e-mail your CVs to **tosoc.gigi@myayala.com** with the subject heading **MYAYALA DEVELOPERS**, or fax to **752-5279** and address to **Ms. Gigi Tosoc, HR & Administration Specialist, myAyala.com, Inc.**, or call **815-2055**. Please indicate specific projects you have worked on and kindly include employment references.

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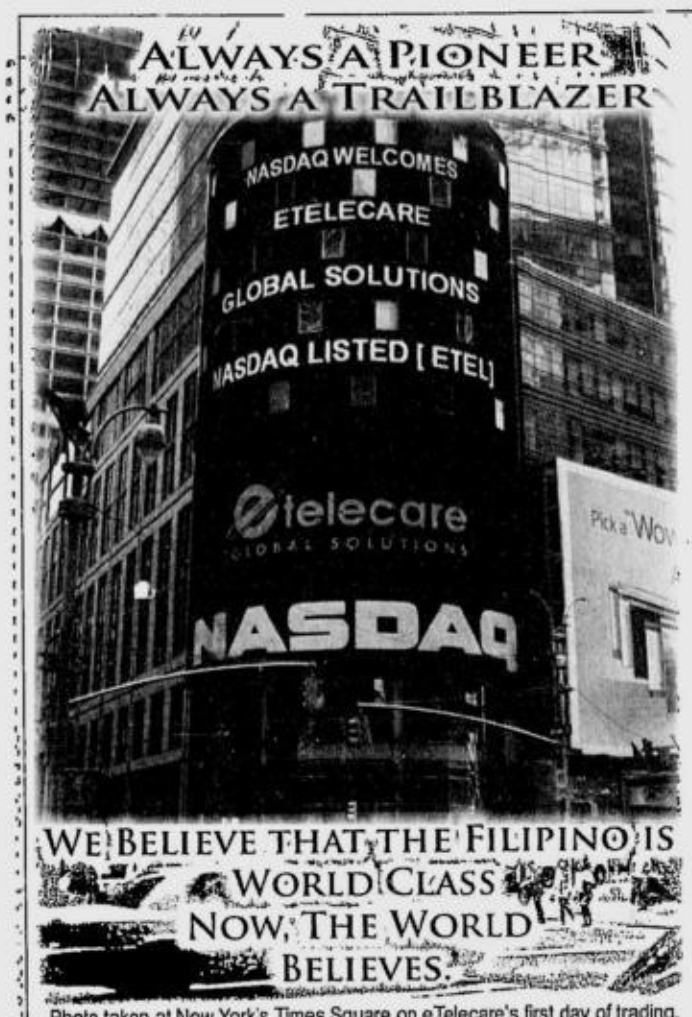

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HARIBON FOUNDATION

is a membership organization committed to nature conservation through community empowerment and scientific excellence. The organization is presently looking for a team of dedicated professionals and environmental advocates to occupy the following positions:

SITE CONSERVATION ACTION ASSOCIATE

Acts as Team Leader, plans, coordinates and oversees all on-site project actions with multi-sector stakeholders and other potential project partners.

- Bachelors degree in Social Sciences or similar field, Post graduate degree is an advantage
- 3 years relevant experience in doing field work, with grounding in Social Development areas such as women and gender, IPs, micro-enterprise, etc.; familiar with the environmental sector
- Competent in Strategic Planning, Decision-Making and Conflict Management
- Willing to be assigned in the field or project site, specifically in Lanuza Bay. Surigao

COMMUNITY ORGANIZER
(SITE CONSERVATION ACTION SPECIALIST OR ASSISTANT)

Undertakes on-site activities related to the implementation of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and rural livelihood initiatives.

- Bachelors degree in Social Sciences or similar field
- Grounding in Social Development areas such as women and gender, IPs, micro-enterprise, etc.; familiar with the environmental sector
- Willing to be assigned in the field or project site in Gen. Nakar, Quezon

COMMUNITY ORGANIZER/RESEARCH ASSISTANT
(SITE CONSERVATION ACTION SPECIALIST OR ASSISTANT)

Undertakes on-site activities related to the implementation of Coastal Resource Management (CRM).

- Bachelors degree in Marine Biology or similar field.
- Preferably with experience in marine research.
- Preferably with experience in doing community organizing work in both marine and terrestrial areas; with grounding in Social Development areas such as women and gender, IPs, micro-enterprise, etc.
- Willing to be assigned in the field or project site, specifically in Lanuza Bay. Surigao.
- Licensed scuba diver.

FINANCE ASSISTANT

(Assists in processing the financial requirements of the organization.)

- Bachelors degree in Accounting or related field
- At least 1 year experience in bookkeeping, accounting, and or auditing
- Experience working with NGOs is an advantage

Qualified applicants may send their resume to the Human Resources Unit, Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources, Inc., 2F Santos and Sons Building, 973 Aurora Boulevard, Cubao, Quezon City. You can also email at **humanresources@haribon.org.ph**, indicate on the subject line the **POSITION** you are applying for.

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- Possess above average communication skills
- Willing to travel

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Who Are We?

The Norwegian Training Center-Manila of the Norwegian Maritime Foundation of the Phils., Inc. (NMFPI) was founded in May 1990 for the purpose of ensuring competent training and to promote quality shipping.

We offer varied courses from Ship and Cargo Handling; Management; Technical; Safety Courses; Welding; and Culinary Courses.

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1. Preferably non-seagoing.
2. Has worked onboard vessel/installation as a crane operator.
3. Crane and lifting experience is required (light or heavy).
4. Willing to be trained as instructor in Trondheim, Norway.

* We offer competitive salary for successful applicant.

For applications please contact:
Capt. Rex O. Recomite, Training Manager
E-mail Address: training.manager@ntcm.com.ph

Address:
Norwegian Training Center-Manila
NTC-M Building, Gate 2 TESDA Complex,
East Service Road, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tel. No. : 812-07-42
Website : www.ntcm.com.ph
E-mail : ntcm.registrar@ntcm.com.ph

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- **PROJECT MANAGER**
  - Licensed Civil Engineer
  - 5 to 10 years experience as PM
  - Proficient in English communication
  - Willing to be assigned outside Metro Manila
- **QA/QC ENGINEERING/ARCHITECT**
  - Licensed Civil Engineer or Architect
  - Minimum 3 years experience in QA/QC
  - Proficient in English communication
  - Male, preferably with driver's license
  - Willing to be assigned outside Metro Manila
- **PROJECT/SITE ENGINEERS**
  - Licensed Civil Engineer or Architect
  - Minimum 3 years experience as PE/SE
  - Proficient in English Communication
  - Willing to be assigned outside Metro Manila
- **PROJECT COORDINATOR**
  - Graduate or licensed BS Architecture
  - Female
  - Skillful in: CADD, Power point, Microsoft
  - Proficient in English communication
- **GEODETIC ENGINEERS/ LINE & GRADE SUPERVISOR**
  - Male
  - 3 ot 5 years minimum experience on vertical and horizontal layout
  - Willing to be assigned outside Metro Manila
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  - Graduate of BSCE or BS Architecture
- **BACKHOE OPERATOR**
- **GRADER OPERATOR**
- **NURSES**
  - Board Passer

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Apply in person or send resumé via email to:

METRO STONERICH CORPORATION
#85 Timog Avenue,
South Triangle, Quezon City
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- Ideal candidates must possess above average communication skills, must be highly adaptable to a dynamic & fast paced environment, highly customer-oriented and driven to achieve targets.

Interested applicants may send their resumes & transcript of records to 2/f Asian Reinsurance Bldg. Gamboa cor. Salcedo Sts. Legaspi Village Makati or email to **novartis-phil.phphma@novartis.com**
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HealthGov
Strengthening Local Governance for Health

The Strengthening Local Governance for Health (HealthGov) Project is a USAID-funded project supporting the government's efforts to provide improved basic health services in partnership with over 500 local government units (LGUs) throughout the country.

HealthGov is in search of a qualified team member for the following key position:

Regional Coordinator for Luzon (based in Manila) CODE: RC

Reporting to the National Field Operations Team Leader, The Regional Coordinator is responsible for the overall leadership, management and administration of operations in the Luzon Region (covering the provinces of Bulacan, Aibay, Isabela, Cagayan, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac). Tasks include working directly with LGU counterparts, supervising the implementation of project activities in the region, and identifying and addressing the technical and operational needs of the regional team.

Regular Duties and Responsibilities
- Manage the Luzon regional office, supervise technical and support staff, and manage financial and administrative years;
- Oversee implementation of all project activities in the region, including:
  - Establishing and engaging multi-stakeholder counterpart teams at the provincial and municipal/city level;
  - Analyzing existing conditions in health services delivery, planning and budgeting, financing, and human resources;
  - Identifying local technical assistance (TA) needs and proposing appropriate TA to be provided by the project;
  - Supporting the development of LGU health investment plans, capacity development plans, resource mobilization plans and other assistance to LGUs;
  - Identifying and documenting good or best practices suitable for dissemination to other LGUs;
- Coordinate with HealthGov regional and national technical staff to ensure that the technical assistance needs of LGUs and other counterparts are met;
- Identify, train and supervise a team of LGU-based Provincial Coordinators;
- Carry out annual performance reviews of directly supervised staff;
- Provide inputs to Project annual and monthly work plans, quarterly reports, monitoring and evaluation and other reports;
- Conduct a monthly review and analysis of field implementation activities against the work plan, identify problems and bottlenecks and make the necessary adjustment in the plan;
- Coordinate with regional counterpart staff, other USAID projects and donor-assisted programs;

Position Requirements

Education: Master's degree in Social Sciences (or other relevant degree)
Experience: A minimum of 5 years experience at the local government level and/or managing LGU support projects; experience in the health sector a strong advantage.

Please send an application letter together with your curriculum vitaé not later than **October 26, 2007** to:

e-mail : **info2007healthgov@gmail.com**
fax : (+632) 706-1419
mail : Chief of Party
HealthGov Project – RTI International
Lower Penthouse 3203-3204
Tycoon Centre Condominium
Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center
1605 Pasig City

RTI INTERNATIONAL

(Indicate the position code on the envelope or in the subject heading of your email).

KERRY

Kerry Group is a major International Food Ingredients and Consumer Foods Corporation.
The Group has pursued a strategic global expansion program which has led to the establishment of manufacturing and technical facilities in Malaysia and sales offices throughout the Asia Region.
We are looking for top caliber professional to fill in the following position.

Maintenance Senior Engineer/Manager

The position is responsible for the overall management of maintenance personnel and direct the modification, improvement, and installation of high-tech equipment.

Specific qualifications:
- Engineering degree holder preferably in Electrical or Mechanical engineering with related industrial experience.
- At least 5 years experience on maintenance engineering and a minimum of 2 years in managerial position
- With experience in food manufacturing industry and knowledge of spray drying technology would be an advantage
- Preferably with knowledge on CMMS (Computerized Maintenance Management System) and experience in CMMS process improvement
- A strong technical background in mechanical and electrical field
- Computer literate especially in Microsoft Office, CAD and engineering software
- Possess good interpersonal communication skill with positive attitude
- Ability to write and converse with confidence in English language

For the successful candidates, we offer a competitive compensation and benefits package, training and professional development opportunities and an enriching organizational life through various local and global initiatives.

We invite interested and qualified applicants to submit their application letters, resumé with 2X2 colored picture, and a photocopy of the Transcript of Records to:

careersAsia@kerryingredients.com.my

Systems Technology Research Corporation

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1. **Accounting Systems Consultants/Trainees** – BS Finance, Accounting or related course; Can work in a demanding and team-oriented environment; Should be computer oriented; Fresh graduates and OJT's are welcome. Should be in top 20% of class
2. **Accounting Clerk/Staff** –BS Accountancy or related course; Should be in top 30% of class.
3. **Accounting and Systems Sales Associate (ASSA) or Part-time Marketing and Sales Partner (PMSP)** – Female; Pleasing personality; Should be sales driven and love to build good customer relations; to sell Microsoft Dynamics Financial Solutions, and SSCI Microsoft based Hotel, Restaurant, and Retail Systems.
4. **Programmer/Developer/Technical Support** – Graduates of BS Computer Science, IT and engineering; experienced in using MS Access, SQL Server, VBA, Visual Basic, Visual Studio development tools; Web applications development skills would be welcome. Should be in top 20% of class.

Fresh graduates and OJT's are welcome. Bring your resumé with picture to Unit 710 Globe Telecom Plaza, Pioneer St. Mandaluyong City, or you may contact Cathy or Yela for the schedule of exam @ 746-5188/746-5191/747-8763 or e-mail at yela22@gmail.com

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SECRETARY

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- ❑ Female, 25-35 years old.
- ❑ Preferably a UP graduate.
- ❑ With 3 years secretarial work experience.
- ❑ Proficient in written and oral English with superior grammar and proofreading skills.
- ❑ Excellent comprehension and listening skills.
- ❑ Highly organized and systematic.
- ❑ Proficient in Microsoft Productivity Tools (Word, PowerPoint, Excel).
- ❑ Knowledgeable in web research.
- ❑ Reporting to a female employer.

Send your Resumé to:

tink.shelley@gmail.com

*Previous applicants need not apply.

CHALLENGING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

A leading assistance service company in the Philippines providing 24/7 emergency assistance services to over 115 million members worldwide, is inviting top-caliber applicants to join its local expansion program for the following positions:

Sales and Account Management Personnel
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing, Management or any related field;
- Computer literate with above average typing skills, power point capabilities;
- Excellent customer service and negotiation skills;
- Must have above-average verbal communication and writing skills.
- Fresh graduates/Entry level applicants are encouraged to apply.

Operations Coordinators (5)
- College graduate preferably of any allied medical course
- Excellent interpersonal links and communication skills
- Willing to be assigned on a shifting work schedule.
- Confident, hardworking, assertive and can work under pressure
- Computer Literate
- Fresh graduates/Entry level applicants are encouraged to apply.

General Accounting Personnel (3)
- Candidate must possess a Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy or its equivalent with at least one year of working experience in the Accounting Department;
- Willing to render extended working hours and manifests potential for career advancement;
- Capable and ready to perform multi-tasks and possess above-average analytical skills;
- Computer literate and able to work under minimum supervision.
- Organized, systematic and meticulous to details.

Interested applicants may send their résumé and credentials to:

EA PHILIPPINES
Beyond Emergency Assistance

Human Resources Department
EA PHILIPPINES, INC.
3rd Floor 6788 Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City
E-mail: hrd@eaphils.com

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headstrong

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Oracle Financial Consultants
- **Required Skills:** ERP, Oracle Financials - GL, AR, AP, Cash Management, Fixed Assets, INV, Purchasing, etc., knowledge in Oracle Forms and Reports
- **Working Experience:** at least 5 years professional experience
- **Preference:** Willing to travel, project implementation exposure

Paralegal/Procurement Officer
- **Required Skills:** Basic understanding of office supplier/ Food Products/ Premiums/ Corporate Gifts/ Multi-media Concepts and Terminology, good command of Data Compliance, IP knowledge, Pcard process knowledge, Sarbanes Oxley, RFI/Proposal process, Ariba and MS Office
- **Working Experience:** 1-5 years working experience in contract negotiations
- **Preference:** Junior Buyer, Business Management or Paralegal experience

Technical Writers
- **Required Skills:** Product Management, Project Management, people management, coordination skills, customer skills, attention to detail, experience in Robohelp, Sharepoint or similar tool
- **Working Experience:** 3-8 years experience in writing
- **Preference:** Understanding of all aspects of IT Compliance, Risk and Security, marketing and communications or publishing background

Trainees
- Fresh graduates of IT - related courses

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Plumbers
Waiters/Waitress
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Mechanic
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JOBMARKET TRAINING NAVIGATOR

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	For Inquiries
Labor Updates and RA9481: Strengthening Workers' Right to Self Organization-Boon or Bane?	Oct. 10	TBD (South/North Luzon)	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph
Strategic Alliance! Advanced Key Account Management	Oct. 11-12	Astoria Plaza Ortigas	ARIVA! Seminar & Convention Organizers 8958058 / 8959527 / 0917-3257870 www. Ariva.com.ph
Evaluation & Salary Structure Design	Oct. 11-12	Century Park Hotel	Magnitude Human Resource Devt. Tel. 0917-8909595 magnitudehrd@yahoo.com
Cutting-Edge Performance! Mastering Marketing & Competitive Intelligence	Oct. 15-16	Astoria Plaza Ortigas	ARIVA! Seminar & Convention Organizers 8958058 / 8959527 / 0917-3257870 www. Ariva.com.ph
Managing Organization-Based Conflict	Oct. 17	ECOP Boardroom Makati City	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph
SMART LEADERSHIP-Supervisory Program	Oct. 18-19	Astoria Plaza Ortigas	ARIVA! Seminar & Convention Organizers 8958058 / 8959527 / 0917-3257870 www. Ariva.com.ph
BRANDS ALIVE! Introduction to Brand Management	Oct. 18-19	Astoria Plaza Ortigas	ARIVA! Seminar & Convention Organizers 8958058 / 8959527 / 0917-3257870 www. Ariva.com.ph
Management Training Program Essentials for Organizational Development	Oct. 23-25	Dusit Hotel Nikko Makati City	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph
Graphics and Publishing Seminar	Oct. 24-26	AIM Acced Conf. Cent Makati City	James Tornea tel. 632-8960639 / fiera@info.com.ph
Labor Updates and RA9481: Strengthening Workers' Right to Self Organization-Boon or Bane?	Oct. 31	TBD (Visayas)	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph

Art Director (Assistant Design Services Coordinator)

Responsibilities

The position provides art direction for electronic and print publishing products, and ensures that ADB's design standards and software are in line with industry best practices by (i) serving as the publishing unit's lead person for art direction for all ADB publications, annual report, and awareness-raising materials; (ii) providing oversight for the publications website, establishing standards and overseeing preparation of electronic publishing products, and serving as the publishing unit's primary liaison with the web team; (iii) staying abreast of design industry standards, and ensuring that ADB's design systems and software are in line with international best practices; (iv) ensuring that the design team is trained in the latest software and maintaining a design resource center; (v) working closely with the multimedia team to ensure that the publishing unit's photographic and digital imaging requirements are met; (vi) leading special projects as required; and (vii) supervising design team in the absence of the design services officer.

Reporting Arrangements

The position reports to the Director, designated Professional Staff and/or National Officer

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include (i) suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level; (ii) bachelor's degree in graphic design, web design, fine arts, or other related field; preferably with a postgraduate degree; (iii) at least 5 years of experience in graphic design, web design, art direction, or related field with reputable organizations, preferably with international art direction experience; (iv) excellent interpersonal skills, and native-speaker level of written and spoken English; (v) strong research and analytical skills with ability to synthesize findings and develop sound systems and practices; (vi) proficiency in InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator, Dreamweaver, Adobe Acrobat, XML, and other graphic software; (vii) ability to multitask; (viii) proven supervisory and coordination skills; and (ix) ability to work independently and take responsibility for work produced.

For more details about the position, please see http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/

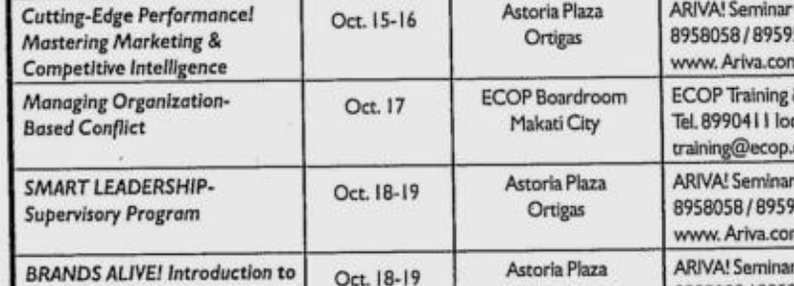
The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from over 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS07-172(4)-DER** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: LS-jobs@adb.org by 21 October 2007.

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank ADB

www.adb.org



Mandom Philippines Corporation is one of the overseas subsidiary companies of Mandom Corporation, Japan, a highly diversified organization engaged in the distribution of hair care and cosmetic products.

Gatsby is our flagship brand. We are currently looking for competent, success-driven, and service-oriented professional to play an important role in our dynamic organization.

SALES & MARKETING ASSISTANT

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The successful candidate must be willing to undergo training and orientation in Metro Manila for Three (3) months only. After the said training he will then be assigned permanently in Cebu to handle Visayas region operations.

REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ Preferably residing in Cebu City or nearby provinces
- ✓ Male, 21 to 25 years old;
- ✓ Graduate of B.S. Marketing, or any business course;
- ✓ Smart, hardworking and creative;
- ✓ Must be highly motivated, a team player and can work with less supervision;
- ✓ With good interpersonal relation skills;
- ✓ Applicants must be willing to travel within Visayas region.
- ✓ With at least one year work experience in sales and marketing.

Interested applicants may send their resume to:

The General Affairs/HR Division
Mandom Philippines Corporation
18th Floor, 6788 Ayala Avenue
Oledan Square, Makati City 1226

We will respond only to shortlisted candidates.

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Makati City *(2nd Bldg, right after Buendia flyover going to LRT) fronting BPI)*
Tel No. 8451373; C.P.09273734743

or, for residents of Las Piñas and nearby cities:
Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun (from 8:00a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
New Zealand Global Immigration
T SVJ Bldg. 2/F Crispina Ave., Las Pias Village.
Las Piñas City
Tel No. 9064398; CP. 09184645518

FEES: $ 60 or Php equivalent (seminar, individual assessment- limited seats only)

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INQUIRER

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QUALIFICATIONS:
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- With at least 3 years solid experience in various aspects of Human Resources which includes Recruitment, Training, and Labor Relations
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- With excellent interpersonal Communication Skills, strong Analytical Skills, and a Service- Oriented personality

CREDIT ASSISTANT

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate with background in Finance or Accounting
- 1 to 2 years experience in Credit and Collection functions
- Knowledge of basic accounting principles
- Knowledge of basic computer operations

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:
HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

IFC International Finance Corporation
World Bank Group

The International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank, has established an advisory services program for Small and Medium Enterprises in the Philippines. The program has a mandate to provide technical assistance to support the development of small and medium enterprises in the following areas: access to finance, agribusiness linkages, sustainability, infrastructure and business enabling environment. **The Sustainability team is looking for a Project Manager for the Rural Electrification Project.**

Rural Electrification Project Manager

The Project Manager (PM) will be responsible for developing and delivering the Rural Electrification project. The Project Manager will lead a multi-disciplinary technical assistance team of consultants to assist a select number of Electric Co-operatives (ECs) based in Mindanao to develop the ECs' ability to operate sustainably into the long-term. This will require working with a number of ECs, consultants and program partners, including AMRECO and ERC. This intervention will develop demonstration models, tools and templates that IFC will show-case so other ECs can then utilise and replicate them. The PM will most likely be based in the IFC office in Manila and will travel frequently to Mindanao, where (s)he may be required to stay for extended periods.

Qualifications and Position Requirements:

- Graduate degree in engineering, finance, business and/or public policy;
- At least 8-10 years of experience, preferably in energy distribution markets with knowledge of pertinent regulations;
- Extensive knowledge of the electricity industry, with particular focus on the distribution network, both internationally and in the Philippines;
- Good networks both nationally and internationally, in industry and government;
- Experience or familiarity with the financial sector desirable;
- Extensive work experience in the Philippines, preferably in Mindanao;
- Ability to manage and prioritize several, disparate tasks simultaneously with confident and calm demeanor;
- Prepared to work, travel and operate independently and effectively on short notice;
- Fluent English and a working knowledge of local languages would be an advantage.

Position likely to be based in Manila, and may involve domestic & international travel. Candidates are encouraged (preferred) to apply online at www.ifc.org (under current opportunities) or send resumes to contactuspepp@ifc.org not later than the close of business hours on October 15, 2007. All applications will be treated with strictest confidence. For corporate information, please visit www.ifc.org. Only short-listed candidates will be notified.

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- Winback Representatives

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- Accounting Manager
- HR Officer
- Foundation Trainer
- Purchasing Officer
- Project Recruiter

Qualifications:

Operations: At least 6 months call center experience handling international accounts

Support: At least 1 year experience in the same capacity

Send your application to:
Careers.agent@acquireap.com - for Agent Positions
Careers.nonagent@acquireap.com - for Non-Agent Positions
or Log on to:
www.acquireasiapacific.com

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- With at least three (3) years work experience relevant to the job
- Knowledgeable in customer and after sales service
- Preferably with significant contacts in the corporate/business world
- Computer literate (Microsoft Office, Powerpoint and Microsoft Publisher)
- Creative, team player, and can work with minimal supervision
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- With valid driver's license

Service and Parts Manager

- Licensed Mechanical Engineer
- Male, not more than 35 years old
- With at least two (2) years experience relevant to the job
- Preferably worked with a reputable motor vehicle corporation
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- Willing to undergo training and travel

Accounting and Finance Officer

- Certified Public Accountant preferably with BOA and certificates
- M/F, 30 to 35 years old
- With at least two (2) years work experience relevant to the job
- Computer literate, and can work with minimum supervision
- Good scholastic record an advantage

Accounting Clerk

- Graduate of BS Accounting; preferably CPA
- M/F, not over 30 years old
- At least one (1) year work experience relevant to the job

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- Male, Automotive Technology graduate
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Is your career on the right track?

By the time you're 30, your salary should be ₱120,000

By Dan Magallanes
Contributor

YES, YOU READ IT RIGHT. BY THE time you reach the age of 30, your salary level should be four times your age. If not, go and check what's wrong with your career. See a career doctor. Don't trust your self-assessment.

It is not a do-it-yourself thing. There was a time I was experiencing a severe stiffness in my neck and I was supposed to meet the CEO of a multinational company over dinner in Hong Kong. On my way to the airport I dropped in at Lourdes Hospital to see its director, Dr. Jose M. Pujalte, a world-class orthopedic surgeon. He prescribed a tiny tablet which cost me more than the price of an Emma Shapplin CD. But presto, upon reaching the check-in counter at Ninoy Aquino International Airport, I felt relieved and ready for the short flight and brain boggling meeting that very same day.

Lesson in life—don't trust yourself in areas beyond your competencies.

Farm it out. Hire a professional consultant. I am a consultant myself, but beyond my expertise, I hire only the best. I am prepared to pay the high price because quality for me is expensive. Career planning has being done in the first world a long time ago.

In the Philippines, we don't do it that's why we still remain in the third world class. It becomes a dictate from home.

When the boom for nursing employment in the US and UK hits the country, everybody wants to become a "nurse." This is motivated by the dollar syndrome and the opportunity to bring the whole family to the land of milk and honey—a promise of comfortable and easy life. Even licensed doctors are burning their brows again to study nursing and swiftly get to the US. High school graduates are no longer given the chance to pursue a career where they will eventually become happier.

Of course, it is the responsibility of the parents to guide them on what course to take in relation to their capability and interest. But it is still the best move to hire a professional career consultant. Planning should start from the time you pursue a degree. But it is not too late for you now if you will only keep an open mind.

A group of friends of mine from abroad who are experienced professional career consultants pooled themselves together and established a career consulting office despite my objection that it will not prosper in the Philippines at that time—or even now.

Seven months later, they all decided to pack up and head to where they uprooted themselves. In my history as a headhunter for 17 years, I only got three appointments for career counseling. One was an executive of a mall, the second of a well-known television entertainer and the third, a very popular clothes designer in the '80s.

I have observed that most of our executives and professionals at any point in their career would rather buy a high-end mobile phone or an expensive designer bag than pay a career consultant for their stagnant or sagging career. They tend to forget that they have to live on a parallel lifestyle based on their position in the company and of course their take-home pay. If you are bent on having a good career, you have to focus on how you will attain it at a certain paradigm. It is not wanting but not doing anything.

On one occasion that I was invited to speak before a huge audience composed of young managers. I asked them to raise their hands if they want to become successful in their career. Everybody did. But when I asked if they have made a thorough check on where they were heading, no one braved the challenge.

ILLUSTRATION BY JERITO DELA CRUZ

I have interviewed hundreds and hundreds of executives and professionals in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, USA, Europe and even as far as Samoa and I have seen why only a few are successful.

New graduates, forget about where you got your degree. I never look at the so-called "top universities." I claim to pioneer in promoting this attitude with my multinational client-companies.

Have you ever wondered why this 38-year-old guy who earned his degree from a not-so-known college in the southern part of the country got a job which offered a whooping basic salary of P500,000 per month plus dizzying perks? You read it right: half a million pesos on the 30th day of every month.

This executive bested nine other candidates who are mostly graduates of "top universities" in the Philippines fielded by other headhunters. The interview process was tedious.

First interview was done in Manila; second in Bangkok; third in Singapore. Then there were only four shortlisted candidates. The fifth interview was done in Hong Kong. A week later, I got a call from the chair of the company in the US and was asked to send my candidate to the US on a first-class seat that very same week for a courtesy call with the big bosses. He got the job. He was given a signing bonus of $50,000.

The secret? MBA? No, he does not have one and does not aspire to have one. It was his attitude, the quality of his experiences and accomplishments, capped by the desire to make things "happen" now.

If you do not have at least 10 years of meaningful work experience occupying a manager's position in your current employ, then you don't need an MBA.

Most of the top executives I placed do not carry graduate degrees. Being an honor graduate is likewise unimportant. I do not look at the transcript of records.

I often wondered why most of the summa, magna and cum laude graduates do not make it to the top. My profession has shown me the reasons.

One: honor graduates tend to be perfectionist and idealistic.

Two: they have high career expectations within a short period of time because they know they are the best.

Three: they have little patience. Since they are intelligent, they want things done their way, within their time frame which is impossible in a corporate arena. People skills matter. Team work counts. You are not alone in your department.

I once plucked a 28-year-old guy who works as communications officer for an international NGO. Impressed with his impeccable oral communication skills, I again concluded this fellow is a graduate of a so-so college.

True enough—he obtained his bachelor's degree from an up-town college in the south. He speaks with élan.

At a young age, he has already published a book on corporate social responsibility which is being used as the guide book of all the worldwide offices of the NGO where he worked with. He was asked by his employer to travel to different countries to speak about the topic he had written. I advised and moved him to a more responsible position with a blue-chip company for three times his present salary.

The company where I placed him was taken over by another giant. He called me up for advice. I coached him to move to another assignment. Other managers in his level decided to stay on. For three months, he could not find a job better or even parallel to his previous compensation, experience and qualifications. He started to get nervous. He dropped in my office one late afternoon and invited me for coffee. After a thorough analysis of everything in his career life, I told him to capitalize on his creative juices. Put on a new pair of shoes—be an entrepreneur.

That was three months before Christmas.

On his first month, he already earned his salary for the first quarter of the following year.

Capital? No. It is trusting the expert to do the thinking for him. His fellow managers who remained during the acquisition process were later advised on redundancy of their position. They lost their jobs.

It is true that career professionals move for better pay. But it should not be the monetary consideration all the time if you really want a high-flying career. Don't move just because the work is near the place where you live. Don't move because you just want to move. Pay an expert the way you pay for a nice-looking Louis Vuitton purse or a top-of-the-line mobile phone.

The best career is in the Philippines nowadays. Blue-chip companies are coming our way. This is the place to become successful. The most comfortable life is here. You leave the country because you feel you cannot make it here. If you cannot make it here, you cannot make it anywhere.

Be a winner in your own country.

Remember, by the time you reach the age of 30, your salary should be four times your age.

(The author is CEO of Headhunter Manila, an executive search firm. He consults for blue-chip companies and lectures on moving your career up. He also coaches executives and professionals. Feedback at dan@headhuntermanila.com)

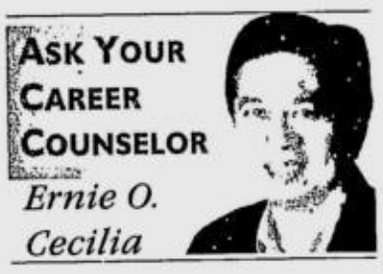
'Where do I fit?'

I'M STARTING TO LOSE HOPE about having a great career. I read you column about transferring companies and am still confused about my career.

After three years and three jobs after college, I don't feel the satisfaction I am looking for in a job. I feel unappreciated. My boss is not exactly an admirable leader. My associates have poor attitudes and ethics. Top management seems not to care about the faceless statistics in their payroll. I know I have potential but can't seem to put it to good use.

I had a few job interviews lately, but either the company is not what I want or I am not the person they're looking for. I am now getting desperate. My wife can't be of much help, except that she contributes a lot to our family income, but she doesn't care about my career—nobody seems to care at all. I know that there must be a perfect job for me out there. Can you tell me where I fit?

Square Peg



You're in good company—thousands, if not millions, feel the same way you do. Off hand, let me say that there is a "fit" between you and the job when the work you do satisfies your inner needs. There is a thread that runs through every life—and when the work you do follows this thread, you get a sense of satisfaction. Your inner need is satisfied. A need is a "force," a passion, a longing that needs to be satisfied. We may be conscious or not conscious about it, but it is there. Some people need to be accepted, needed or recognized. Some people need other people to be supportive, or simply to bounce off ideas without a threat to one's ego. Usually, people look at their work as the venue which gives them what they need. If the job does not provide what they need, they normally try to make it up on weekends, with hobbies or friends. Some find an escape in cigarettes, alcohol and other not-so-pleasant activities that directly or indirectly provide their need but harm their lives.

Like flowers

Sometimes, I look at employees like plants in a flower patch. You will know if your flower patch is right for you if you are growing nicely and bea-ring flowers. A great flower patch is where the gardener (employer, boss) puts you in the right spot (position), doesn't over-water (pamper to the point of losing challenge), doesn't expose you to too much sunlight (overwork, overexpectations), and doesn't under-nourish you (with no praise or with plenty of criticism).

Passion to flourish

Sometimes, the gardener overlooks the plant's needs, exposes it to too little or too much sunlight, water, or fertilizer. You don't expect that plant to bear the right flowers or fruits. But unlike plants, you have the power to go where you can flourish in your career. Like the plant, there is an environment that is perfect for you to flourish—and this can be available to you.

Does everyone have the passion to flourish in his or her career? I guess so. But the intensity of that passion usually differs among people. The fact remains that there is passion in everyone. The sad news is that in many people, that passion is buried under layers and layers of fears, doubts and other negative feelings that prevent them from achieving what they are capable of, and from feeling the satisfaction and happiness that they deserve.

In his book, "Think and Grow Rich," Napoleon Hill calls these basic fears as "ghosts." They are the fear of po-verty, criticism, ill health, loss of love, old age, and death. To understand these fears, read the book. It is enough for now to understand that these fears tend to bury whatever passion one has.

To unearth our passion, sometimes we need to realize what fears stand in our way and that passion that will lead us to a more satisfying life and career.

Before you decide to move on for the fourth time in your career, take some time to take stock of what you are and what you want. Before looking for the market to sell your product, first have a very intimate look at the product you are selling—yourself. You must realize the uniqueness of your product and understand under what kind of environment your career will flourish. Understand what you can offer and it is easy to find which companies are looking for it. Do the reverse of what most job seekers do—send their resumés "to whom it may concern." This time, know yourself first and find where your talent will best flourish. That is where you fit.

Power to create

Many job applicants simply look for vacancies and force fit themselves into whatever jobs are available. There soon becomes a mismatch— they soon become misfits.

Some of our greatest innate powers, not discovered by many, are the power to choose and the power to create. Yes, you can choose your boss, your position, and your pay. You can create the career you want—in fact, you can create the life you want. But most employees that I have seen seem to have no control at all with their lives and career.

When you are making the right choices about your life and career, when you are finally doing the work you love to do, everything else will fall into place. The sense of pride and joy, the money, perks, self-esteem and overall satisfaction will follow.

You can create the "you" that you want to be in five years. It will depend on the books you read today and the people you associate with—in short, information and relations. These are the keys to success in business and work—knowledge and lasting relationships.

For some people, the problem is focus—they don't know what they want in life, and what choices to make. For others, the problem is approach— they don't know how to make contact, what strategy to adopt, follow up and job search tactics. (You can get helpful tips on getting a job from my book available at popular bookstores— "How to Get a Job.")

Problems everywhere

I understand your problems now. The sad thing is that wherever you go, you will tend to meet the same people and the same problems in the workplace.

I want you to understand this clearly—YOU HAVE POWER. I don't mean power over your bosses or the kind of job you are made to do. I mean your ability to act. You can put your passion to work. You can act to find out your passion and your strengths. You can act and move to the flower patch where your talent will flourish.

Most people don't know how to look for their passion. Here's a clue. The answers are all inside you. Here's another clue —they are hidden behind la-yers of fears, doubts and disbelief. First, believe in yourself. Next, face your fears. Then, you can get all the answers.

If you look around you, you will see a lot of the so-called successful and powerful people who are captains of industry or leaders in government and entertainment. Many of the taipans did not go to Wharton or Harvard —in fact, Henry Sy, Lucio Tan, John Gokongwei and Bill Gates are school dropouts. Manny Villar, Manny Pacquiao, Efren Bata Reyes, Angel Locsin, and a host others of superstar fame in their chosen fields are simply ordinary people —doing ordinary jobs in their own extraordinary ways.

Let me end with an advice from the great Ralph Waldo Emerson, "If a man can write a better book, preach a better sermon, or make a better mousetrap than his neighbor, then the world will make a beaten path to his door."

(The author is chair of IR Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce and Chair of ECOP's Long Range Policy Planning Committee. He is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. Feedback at ernie_cecilia @yahoo.com)

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

The Lord replied, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to (this) mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

'Faith-full' worker

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

TRANSPLANTING A TREE WOULD REQUIRE NOT JUST A LITTLE effort but quite a lot of strength, patience, and even care—much work. Beautifying an avenue, boulevard or a park with trees taken from somewhere else could not happen just in an instant but perhaps in a day or two and not with just a little cost, but with a huge expense of "men, machines and money." Working with trees therefore would not be as easy as Jesus pictures it in the Gospel verse focus. Yet, Jesus clearly teaches that with just a little faith, one can work even greater miracles than just transplanting a mulberry tree into the sea. With faith, any worker could perform great and wonderful works.

A "faith-full" worker may not necessarily show an incredible performance in the production of goods or services or cause an unbelievable increase of profits for the business or company. He may not even succeed in getting an enviable salary and benefits for him and for everyone in the company. But if he is filled with a lively faith in Jesus he could certainly experience and also make others feel something different from the ordinary working day, something incomprehensible yet excitingly meaningful.

Faith makes the worker-believer "see" the presence of Jesus in everyone thus helping create a serene and calm atmosphere in an otherwise chaotic work environment, and giving a personal touch to a rather impersonal world of work. Faith inspires the worker to give his whole being in his work, making everything he does as an act of worship to the Giver of life. Faith satisfies the worker's heart with the assurance that the value of his work goes beyond the material benefits he receives from his earthly employer. With just a little faith in everyone, miracles happen in the workplace. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Realizing the impossible

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

THE THOUGHT OF A MULBERRY TREE OBEYING YOUR COMMAND and planting itself in the sea reminds me of three palm trees sprouting from the shoreline of Dubai and jutting out into the sea. It tickles the imagination but it's the truth: these "trees" are called "Palm Islands" because they are man-made islands built in the shape of a palm tree. Designed to be visible from outer space, they will definitely put the palm tree in the map. Viewed from the air they are absolutely awesome—sunlit silhouettes of palm trees against the vast ocean—can you imagine that?

These resort islands—named Palm Jumeirah, Palm Jebel Ali and Palm Deira—now hold the distinction of being the world's largest artificial islands. "Artificial" because they are built by human hands—and on reclaimed land at that! Palm Jumeirah alone which has a "crown" of 17 "fronds" supports 4,000 residential villas, 1,000 water homes and 5,000 shoreline apartments, plus restaurants, shopping malls, health spa cum sports facilities, marinas and dive sites. These are all for sale and their owners started moving in late last year. Mind boggling, isn't it?

Now where does faith come in here? In the workplace, we don't suppose we can simply wish the impossible and expect it to come true, right? We need hard work on top of our mustard-seed-size faith. To create the Palm Islands, their builders must have first dreamed, then believed, and then they received. They received the strength and the will to work hard for their dream, so that now it's a reality. Aiming for the "impossible" may be God's dream in us and for us, but it seems it cannot come true without our collaboration. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

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100 TELE OFFICERS

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Look for Ms. Lim 7534787 & 7534782

The University Research Co. LLC (URC) seeks a Research, Evaluation and Monitoring (REM) Advisor and a Media Advisor for its USAID funded Health Promotion and Communication Project (HealthPro) in the Philippines. This project is working with the Department of Health and local institutions to assist LGUs in 29 provinces in the promotion of healthy behaviors in the country.

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND MONITORING (REM) ADVISOR

Specific Responsibilities:

The Research, Evaluation and Monitoring (REM) Advisor will take the lead and provide technical oversight of all research, evaluation and monitoring-related activities of the project. S/He will work closely with all the members of the project technical team, as appropriate. The responsibilities of the Research, Evaluation and Monitoring Specialist shall include the following:

1. Take the lead in developing the project's Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) in consultation with the project's technical team and develop a monitoring system to track these indicators;
2. Prepare an evaluation and research agenda for the project that includes evaluation activities, appropriate Behavior Change Communications (BCC) and operations research, as needed;
3. Prepare research concept paper for discussion with internal technical team and consultation with external partners, as needed;
4. Provide technical assistance in the development of simple research techniques and tools for monitoring and evaluations of local Health Promotion and Communication (HPC) plans;
5. Assist in the implementation of capacity building interventions on communication research, evaluation and monitoring for national and local partner institutions; and
6. Determine the need for short-term consultants, prepare scopes of work, identify appropriate individuals and prepare needed documents to engage their services.

Desired Qualifications:

- M.A. in social science research, communications, social/behavioral sciences or other related fields. Ph.D. preferred;
- At least 6 years of documented extensive/advanced experience in designing, conducting and managing project monitoring and evaluation, and social science research in the Philippines;
- Familiarity and understanding of health issues and the dynamics surrounding health programs at national and local levels including issues in monitoring and evaluating health promotion activities;
- Familiarity with social science research institutions and practitioners in the Philippines;
- Filipino national.

MASS MEDIA ADVISOR

Specific responsibilities:

The Mass Media Advisor will be responsible for ensuring the achievement of activities leading to the increase in reach and quality of public dissemination activities and ensuring the optimum utilization of the mass media. S/He will work closely with the BCC Advisor and other technical specialists and will take the lead in providing technical advice to project partners including LGUs on developing appropriate mass media approaches and interventions in support of interpersonal communication strategies. The responsibilities of the Mass Media Advisor shall include the following:

1. Propose and define performance indicators for an effective and efficient implementation of public information and mass media interventions and provide inputs in developing a monitoring system to track these indicators;
2. Undertake inventory of existing relevant mass media materials and enhance them to ensure they meet standards and best practices in audience-centered and integrated health communication;
3. The development of core health messages for public dissemination and mass media materials that address national/local health concerns in terms of appropriate healthy practices, health services and health policies and support interpersonal communication interventions;
4. Compile, regularly update, and distribute to local and national media partners, messages on healthy practices, health services, and appropriate health policies for public dissemination;
5. Put in-place a system to institutionalize and sustain this partnership with mass media practitioners at all levels;
6. Design and implement a system to ensure that all mass media tools and materials produced under USAID-assisted projects in the Philippines adhere to appropriate quality standard and USAID branding requirements;
7. Provide technical advice to project partners including LGUs on developing appropriate mass media approaches and interventions in support of interpersonal communication strategies; and
8. Determine need for short-term consultants on public information and mass media, prepare scopes of work for these consultants; identify appropriate individuals and prepare needed documents to engage their services.

Desired Qualifications:

- M.A. in communications, marketing, or other related fields;
- At least 6 years of documented experience on extensive/advanced mass media work in the Philippines;
- Familiarity and understanding of health issue and the dynamics surrounding health programs at national and local levels, including issues in mass media promotion;
- Familiarity with the dynamics surrounding mass media in the Philippines including mass media structures and media practitioners in the country;
- Filipino national

Application Instructions:

Send application letter and CV to: **gperla@urc-chs.com** by October 15, 2007. No telephone inquiries, please.

Australian Government
AusAID

PROGRAM MANAGER (Rural & Private Sector Development) - Development Cooperation

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is responsible for the delivery of Australia's Development Cooperation Program to the Philippines. AusAID is seeking expressions of interest (EOI) for a **Program Manager** (PM) position within the Development Cooperation Section of the Australian Embassy, Manila. The Program Manager will facilitate and contribute to the efficient and effective delivery of the development cooperation program by providing: a) management of a team under the Rural and Private Sector Development program, which includes supervision of initiative managers and oversight of finances, contractual and program quality issues; b) liaison with senior AusAID officers, Philippine Government officials, and with other development partners and multilateral banks on harmonisation, design and program development issues, including policy reform issues; and c) effective coordination with AusAID head office.

Selection Criteria

The successful applicant will be a Filipino citizen with relevant academic qualifications and a very strong grasp of decentralization issues and local governance challenges (e.g. role and performance of LGUs, knowledge of the Local Government Code and understanding of the local government finance). The applicant should have familiarity of the agriculture and agrarian reform programs in the Philippines, and an appreciation of the private sector's role in promoting economic growth at the national and sub-national levels, and related international best practices. The applicant should have proven program/project and contract management skills, highly effective facilitation and written communication skills. The applicant should demonstrate analytical and policy development skills with a strategic, practical and risk management focus. The applicant is expected to exhibit leadership qualities such as decisiveness and has the ability to direct and integrate efforts towards a common goal.

Conditions of Contract

The Program Manager will be a full-time position available on a renewable two (2) year contract. The nominated person is expected to commence as soon as possible. A competitive salary and benefits package will be offered to the successful candidate.

Expressions of Interest

Expressions of interest (one page), outlining briefly relevant experience and qualifications with reference to the duties and selection criteria for the position, should be sent to: **Asia Select, Inc. 6/F The Athenaeum Bldg., # 160 Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227** or at nduran@asiaselect.com.ph or noahduran@gmail.com by close of business **(COB) 19 October 2007.** EOI should particularly address the qualities and attributes the applicant would bring to the position, if selected. Please include a curriculum vitae, and two (2) work-related referral letters (preferably from current supervisor and addressing the criteria). Do not send copies of academic transcripts, awards, degrees, or published papers. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Envelopes should be clearly marked **"PROGRAM MANAGER /AUSAID"**. Only those selected for interview will have their applications acknowledged.

Interested applicants are encouraged to obtain a copy of the Job Specification, which is available by emailing nduran@asiaselect.com.ph or noahduran@gmail.com

AusAID is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) employer and maintains a smoke-free working environment.

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indicate position in the subject line.

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Accounting Associate (Cebu/Manila)
Accounting Officer (Financial Reporting and Analysis)
Billing Specialist
Payroll Staff
Payroll Specialist
Payroll Supervisor
Risk Management Officer
Time Management Officer
Time Management Staff
Timekeeping Specialist

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
HRMS Database Administrator
Database Administrator
Data Quality Manager
Lead QA Tester
Senior Software Engineer
Reports Analyst/Developer
Server System Specialist (Cebu)
Senior Business Analyst
Senior Business Systems Analyst
Business Continuity Planning Manager
Director for Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Planning
Chief Information Security Officer
Consulting and Implementation Manager
Implementation Analyst

ADMINISTRATION AND FACILITIES
Ops Manager (Baguio)
Security Associate (Baguio/Makati)
Facilities Associate

Career Development Manager
Leadership Development Training Manager
Senior Management Development Trainer
Management Development Trainer (Cebu)
Communication Trainer (Cebu)

OPERATIONS
Team Supervisor for Technical Account (Cebu)
Team Manager for Transcription Account (Baguio)
Operations Manager for Technical Account (Cebu)

HUMAN RESOURCES
Senior Employee Relations Officer
HR Associate - Employee Relations
HR Officer - Employee Relations
Recruitment Associate
Compensation and Benefits Assistant
Compensation and Benefits Associate (Cebu)

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PEOPLESUPPORT

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We are a customer-centric organization with 6,000 employees passionate about supporting customers with world class products and services that fully meet their needs - current and future. Our aim is to apply our experience and results driven approach to deliver market leading solutions and service excellence for our customers who operate in 120 countries.

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SUPPORT CONSULTANTS

- Analyze functional and technical reported cases and provide a resolution in the standard acceptable timeframe through the Production Support Procedure (PSP) timescales to ensure client satisfaction; and
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- Provide clients with advice and guidance on how to optimize the use of Misys products to support their business processes

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- Graduate of any bachelor's degree from an IT related discipline. Graduates from other disciplines with strong technical inclination are also welcome to apply
- Good problem solving and strong analytical ability
- Very good communication (both written and verbal) and interpersonal skills
- Fast-learner, keen on details, and self-motivated
- Must be customer focused and is able to work under pressure
- Willing to travel overseas on various assignments on short- or long-term basis if necessary
- Willing to work on different shifts, including night shifts and public holidays as may be required to meet business needs

THE CLASSIFICATIONS:

A. Trainee Support Consultants

- Relevant working experience not required
- Open to fresh graduates and candidates with less than 1 year of relevant work experience
- Java/J2EE programming skills will be an added advantage
- Willing to undergo an extensive "Technical Training Program"

B. Associate Support Consultants

- Open to candidates with 1-2 years of relevant work experience supporting or developing softwares, system analysis and maintenance; preferably in the banking or financial sectors
- Experience with banking software will be an added advantage
- Knowledge of coding in one or more languages; preferably of the following languages: CoBOL, VB, C, C++, Java, CL (AS/400), RPG (Reports Program Generator)
- Willing to undergo an extensive "Technical Training Program" if Misys deems necessary

C. Experiened Support Consultants

- Candidates must have more than 2 years relevant work experience supporting or developing softwares, system analysis and maintenance; preferably in the banking or financial sectors
- Experience with banking software will be an added advantage
- Experience in providing customer services and handling customer issues
- Knowledge of coding in one or more languages; preferably of the following languages: CoBOL, VB, C, C++, Java, CL (AS/400), RPG (Reports Program Generator)

Our Stature

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- Misys Loan IQ customers account for around a third of the world's loans and half of the global traded loan volumes

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- To make a projected expense report for each product within an agreed upon budget.
- To ensure quality and relevance of each of the products' content.
- To ensure production is within approved expense budget.
- To manage, assess performance and conduct workshops or training for each of the products' team members.
- To strategize on effective content distribution and formulate a marketing plan for each product, together with the respective teams.
- To assist the Sales Teams in generating revenue for the products through conceptualization of specialized creative packages for key clients.
- To ensure an effective feedback mechanism for all products.

MARKETING MANAGER
Qualifications:
- College Graduate, Major in Marketing, Advertising, or Mass Communication with at least 2 years product development experience.
- Knowledge on market research, 4Ps of marketing-product, price, promotion and placement strategies.
- Must possess skills on business planning and writing, analysis, planning and organizing, monitoring, project management, leadership, presentation and negotiation.

GRAPHIC ARTISTS
Qualifications:
- College graduate of a computer and/or designing course. Preferably with publication layouting background.
- Exceptional designing skils
- Organized, resourceful, creative
- Willing to work overtime and thrives under pressure.

MARKETING ASSISTANT
Qualifications:
- College Graduate, Major in Marketing, Advertising, or Mass Communication.
- Knowledge on marketing concepts.
- Proficiency in basic computer operations (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- Knowledge of basic design software applications an advantage. (Photoshop, InDesign)
- Excellent communication, presentation, writing, interpersonal, analytical, planning, and organization skills.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Qualifications:
- At least College Level, preferably with background in Marketing, Sales or any Business course.
- Highly motivated, a team player, with good communication, negotiation and presentation skills, thrives under pressure and can work with minimal supervision.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City and do field work.
- Preferably has at least 1 year experience in Corporate Sales/Advertising/Publication.

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Qualifications:
- College Graduate, Major in Management, Economics or Marketing.
- Preferably with at least five (5) years experience in Circulation with three (3) years managerial experience.
- Knowledge in product, price, distribution and promotion strategies.
- Proficiency in basic computer operations (Word, Excel, Powerpoint).
- Excellent communication, presentation, writing, interpersonal, analytical, planning, and organization skills.

Interested applicants may send their resumes to any of the ff: spanlilio@inquirer.com.ph, jreyes@inquirerpublications.ph, hrd@hip.ph or bring their resume, two (2) 2x2 photos, Transcript of Records, and any valid I.D. at Unit 330, Mile Long Building, Amorsolo corner Javier Streets, Makati City, from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
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Central China Goldfields Plc, a UK based company, is seeking a mining engineer to work initially on a project in the Western Provinces of China. After several months on this project we expect the right candidate will then work at a more elevated position as Vice President for Mining, reporting to the Managing Director to oversee other mining opportunities in the Company's developing portfolio. The ideal candidate will have the following experience:

Technical management experience

- proven ability in safety, health, environment and community relations affairs
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- open pit development and mining
- ore transport logistics and control
- grade control and metallurgical balance reconciliation
- operational risk assessment and mitigation

General experience

- cross-cultural and working abroad
- ability to work in a team at all levels of an organization
- good leadership and communication skills
- ability to train subordinate staff

A generous remuneration package and travel allowance will be negotiated with the selected candidate. Applications should be made by e-mail to **info@ccgoldfields.com** with full details of past experience.

FT
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- ✓ Previous experience working in the publishing industry or a multinational company

Qualified applicants should post their detailed resume, cover letter and most recent photograph not later than Friday, October 12, 2007, to **The HR & Administration Manager** at the following address:

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42nd Floor, Philamlife Tower,
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Inquire about the JobMarket Libre at 897-8808 loc 514.

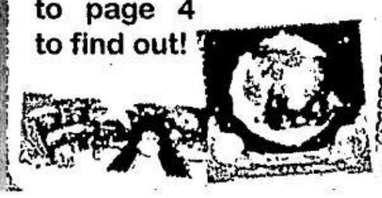
Junior INQUIRER

E-mail: ji@inquirer.com.ph

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2007 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 10, NUMBER 80

WHAT'S INSIDE:

What's on our Snoops' browsers? Turn to page 4 to find out!



Denise Anne Castro

12 years old

Quezon City

JI SNOOPS

Blogger Power

EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT their blogs: what they're going to write, how they will jazz them up, what photos they will upload. But still, some of you might be wondering what a blog is or why blogging has become so popular.

A blog or a weblog is a personal journal that a user posts online for the entire world to see. Think of it as a public diary of a person's daily experiences. It may include pictures, video clips, or links to other sites.

Blogging has become so popular because it covers just about anything: from politics to pop culture, or whatever's on your mind. What's more, anyone in the world with access to the Internet can view a blog with a mere click of the mouse.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

I myself am a self-confessed blog girl. I love blogging and I enjoy browsing other people's blogs. I love the fact that what I write reaches so many people, from every corner of the globe, from every walk of life. My blog is my personal space where I can rant about corrupt politicians and rave about the latest album of my favorite boy band. It's a place where I can write poems and share my dreams and fears. It's a place where I can be myself, write gibberish and no one will think I'm weird.

I think blogging is great for kids like me! We learn how to keep a journal; have a creative outlet; increase communication with friends and relatives; learn about the Internet and computer technology; and improve typing, spelling, writing and editing skills.

To would-be bloggers, I say: welcome to the blogosphere!

BLOG SAFELY!

Ask permission from your parents before you make a blog.

Never mention personal information like your full name, home address, phone numbers, school's name, e-mail address, last names of friends or relatives, your age, or your birth date.

Always keep in mind that what you publish on the Web will be seen by other people. Even if you delete an entry, your crush from the United States or a kid from India could have already printed it out or saved it.

Keep blogs positive and don't use them to attack others.

Think Out Loud!

Should kids be allowed to chat online?

Yes, because kids are curious about the technology. But, they must be closely supervised by their parents.—Nathania B. Garcia, 15, Las Piñas City

Technology has become part of our life so we should be allowed to chat. Chatting can be educational too. —Katreena Frances Monje, 13, Cauayan City, Isabela

Yes, it's a way of communicating with our friends and relatives from far places. Chatting is also our way of telling someone things that we don't have the courage to say over the phone or in person.—Christine Darla Bautista, 12, Quezon City

As long as they're done with their lessons and assignments, kids should be allowed to chat. Didric Kirsten Ferrer, 10, Makati City

They should be allowed to chat as long as they don't give personal information like addresses and phone numbers to strangers. —Patrick Francis Francia, 13, Pandacan, Manila

As long as kids know that not all things that strangers in the Web say are true, they should be allowed to chat online. —Eros Christian Villanueva, 10, Sta. Ana, Manila

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Guyito's Corral

WELCOME TO MY CORRAL!

This is your own special space, where you can express your thoughts and feelings bout anything under the sun in the form of essays, poems, letters and even illustrations!

Send all contributions to ji@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to indicate your full name, age and the city where you live. We'll be waiting!

Cooler by the dozen

JI's turning 12, and we'd like to get dozens and dozens of letters from you!

Tell us what your favorite stories are from any of the JI issues that you've read in the past weeks, months, or even years. Send us a list of your TOP 12 Junior Inquirer stories, and tell us why your number one story occupies the top spot. We'll pick 12 winners and each will get three movie tickets to Glorietta 4 Cinemas and two Timezone game passes!

Only kids aged 7 to 15 may join the contest. E-mail all entries to ji@inquirer.com.ph on or before Oct. 12, 2007. We'll be waiting!

Want to get to know other JI readers like you? Want to write to our Snoops? Or do you simply want to be the first to know about JI promos? Join our yahoogroup! Just send a blank e-mail to jireaders-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

We need insurance

CHILDREN haul sacks of petitions calling on US President George W. Bush not to veto the State Children's Health Insurance Program. Bush has vowed to reject legislation which would double the funds for the program. **AFP**

Washington, USA

Palawan, PHILIPPINES

Stranded!

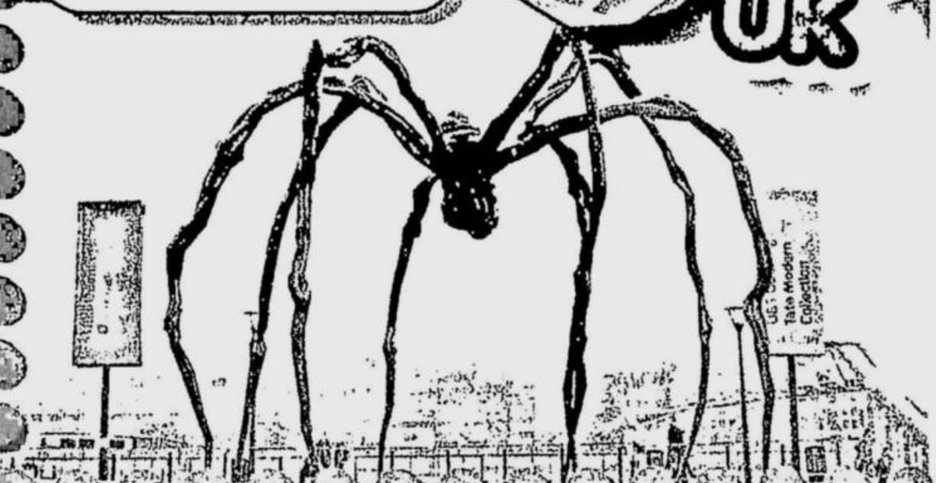
A YOUNG girl helps to keep alive a 15-foot pilot whale found stranded along Puerto Princesa Bay, Palawan. Whale expert Dr. Terry Aquino said this marine mammal was probably ill, causing it to lose its sonar ability to navigate. **Redempto Anda/Inquirer Southern Luzon**

Stainless spider

MAKE way, Spidey! Artist Louise Bourgeois' sculpture of a giant spider stands outside the Tate Modern museum. The sculpture, one of a series of six, is more than nine meters high and made of bronze, stainless steel and marble. Let's hope it doesn't spin a web! **AP**

Wassup World?

London, UK



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WILD ABOUT THE WEB

EXPLORING THE WORLDWIDE WEB CAN YIELD FUN DISCOVERIES, especially if you know where to look. Here are some kid-friendly sites that the JI Snoops want you to check out!

RATING GUIDE:

- 5 bikes – should be in the Internet Hall of Fame
- 4 bikes – I'd gladly spend vacation time on this
- 3 bikes – better than most
- 2 bikes – something to pass the time
- 1 bike – don't bother

Alexia recommends: www.CLUBPENGUIN.COM

Let's all waddle to Club Penguin! It offers many different activities like water games, ice skating, throwing snowballs, and games in a coal mine.

You can also adopt puffles from a pet shop. They come in black, blue, purple pink, orange and a whole lot of other colors.

If you fancy becoming a secret agent or a tour guide, your penguin can become one by taking a test and passing certain requirements.

You can also safely chat with other penguins (read: kids like you) from other parts of the world. You can show them your own igloo, and visit theirs.

RATING: 3 bikes

Denise recommends: www.MUSICOVERY.COM

If you're tired of the hearing the same songs in your player, then this site is for you! It lets you choose and explore music by mood, style, genre, decade and much more. You can generate a playlist with everything from classic oldies that you haven't heard of, to the newest smash hits.

Musicovery shows information about the song and artist inside a small "planet" which is linked to other "planets" featuring the same kind of music. The colorful design plus the color-coded genres add to the groovy feel of the site.

RATING: 4 bikes

Guile recommends: www.NEOPETS.COM

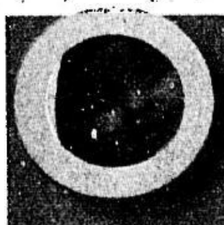
Do you ever wish you have a pet that is like no other?

Register at this site for free, and you can adopt up to four kinds of pets, or "neopets". You will have to groom, feed, and play with your neopet regularly.

You can get to know other neopet owners and even battle with them using your neopet in the Battledome. Using the points that you earn through gaming, you can buy food or clothing for your pet, find them petpets (your pet's pet), and shop for gadgets. The site also includes almost a hundred different games like puzzles, adventures, sports and action games.

Although the site has a lot of good points, I think it can improve by making the games look more realistic.

RATING: 5 5 5 5

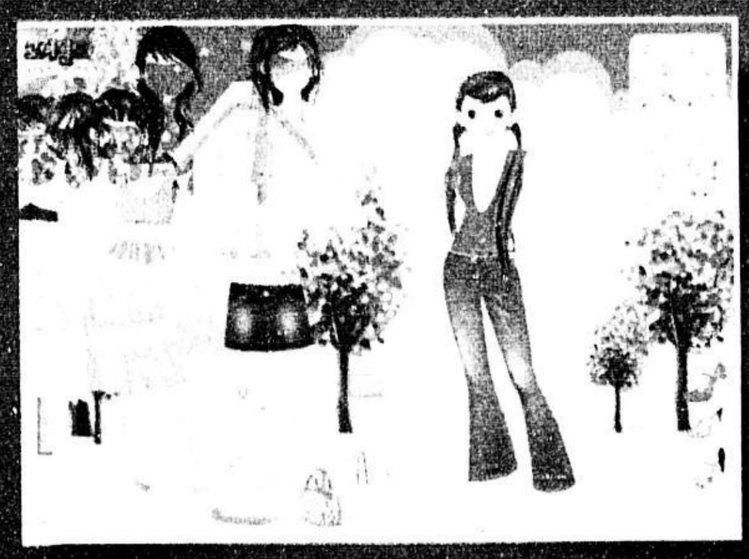


Krysten recommends www.Y8.COM

I love this site because it has free flash games. You can choose among New Games, Most Popular Games, Fun Animation, and more. Games are also listed from A to Z, so it's easy to find a game you've heard of.

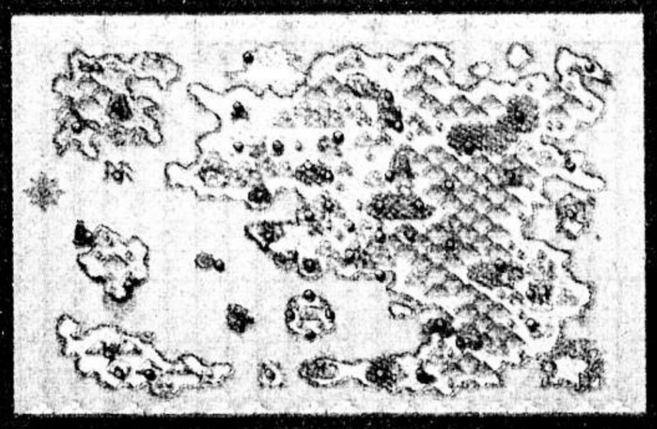
You can play games like Dress Up, Street Sesh and Dodge Ball. There are also brain teasers like crossword puzzles and quiz bees. It would be best to have your parents check out the games you choose.

Your patience will be tested because downloading the games may take sometime, but since it's free, it's worth it. I recommend this site because [illegible] and videos.



RATING: 5 5 5

Isaac recommends: www.SEREBII.NET



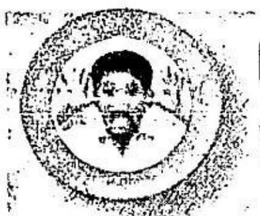
Serebii has a lot of features that many Pokemon fans will love!

It has Hidden Codes, useful tips, funny comics and even a forum. It gives useful information like where a Pokemon item can be found, lists of Level-up Moves, and contest movesets. It also has news about the latest games such as Pokemon Diamond, Pearl, Mystery Dungeon 2 and Battle Revolution.

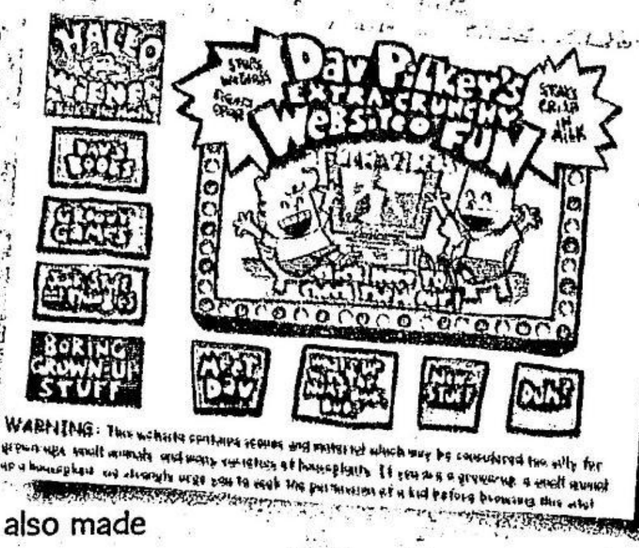
It is very easy to find your way around the site, as there are a lot of text and pictures to help direct users. The only downside is the dark green theme in honor of the site's mascot, Celebi, which may make reading a bit difficult.

There are no ads or pop-ups on Serebii, so there's no danger of clicking on unnecessary and unsafe sites. The site is really just all about Pokemon and is very child-friendly.

RATING: 5 5 5 5 5



Pocholo recommends: www.PILKEY.COM



Calling all Captain Underpants fans! The Extra Crunchy Website-o'-Fun of Dav Pilkey is here!

Captain Underpants is a silly superhero who eventually messes things up. When he isn't a superhero, he is a boring principal called 'Mr.Krupp'. Dav Pilkey is the author of the book. He also made the website.

In the site you may look for his new books, know the book of the month, listen to music, watch flip-o-ramas, and do the Underpants Dance. So far, there are 16 games to play and 10 videos to watch.

I wish they would add more cartoon videos. You also have to be aware that some words are deliberately misspelled to add humor.

Remember to always wear your underpants while visiting this site!

RATING: 5 5 5 5

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RATING: ☆☆☆☆

Krysten recommends: www.AOL.COM

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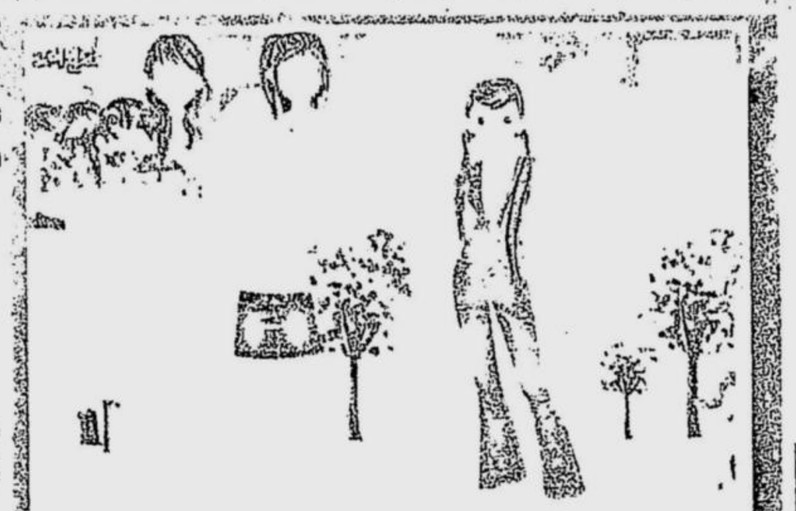
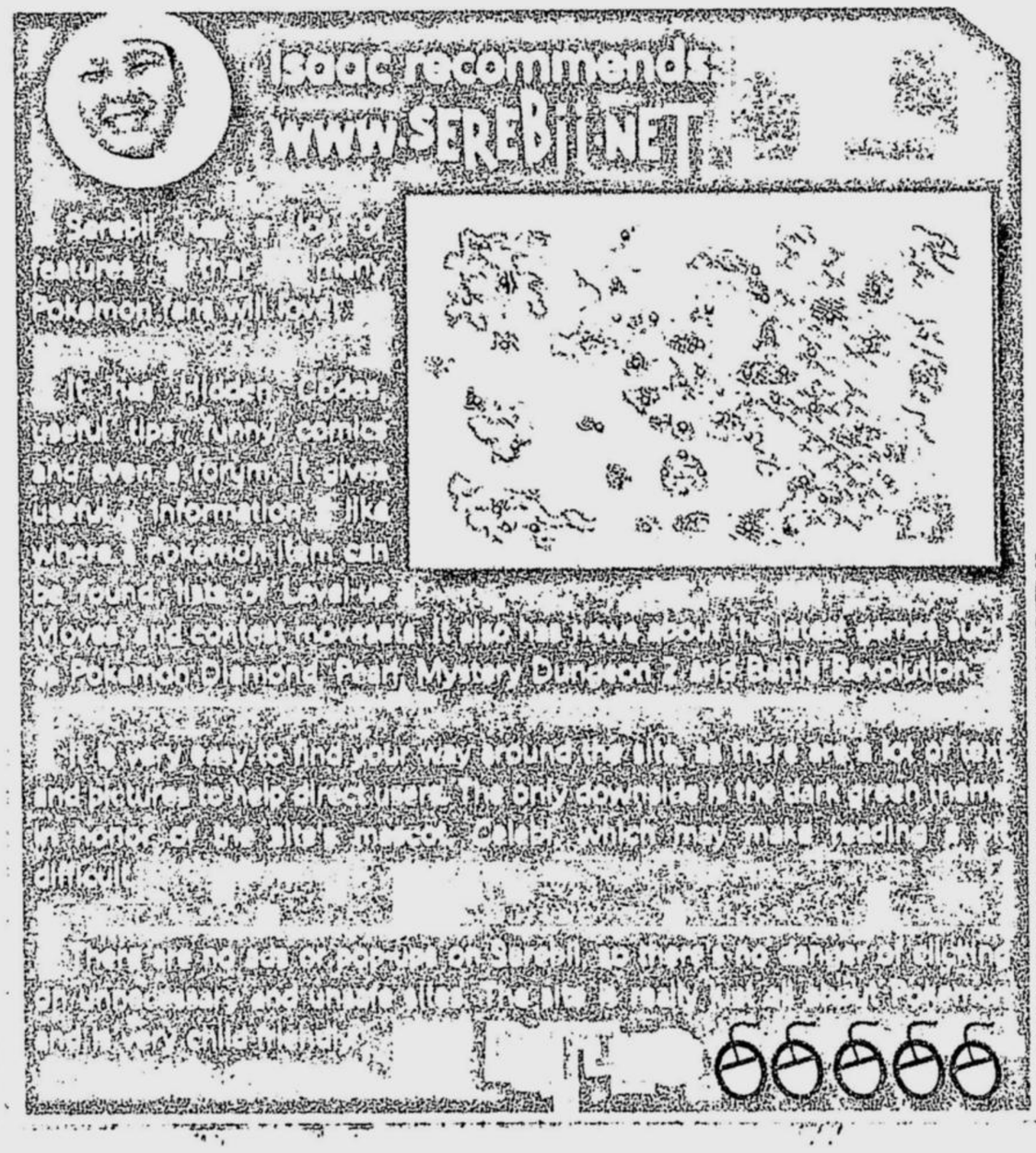
You can play games like Dress Up, Street Sesh and Dodge Ball. There are also brain teasers like crossword puzzles and quiz bees. It would be best to have your parents check out the games you choose.

Your patience will be tested because downloading the games may take sometime. But since it's free, it's worth it. I recommend this site because it's fun and virus-free.

RATING: ☆☆☆☆





Bodie recommends: WWW.SEREBII.NET

RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

Pocholo recommends: www.PILKEY.COM

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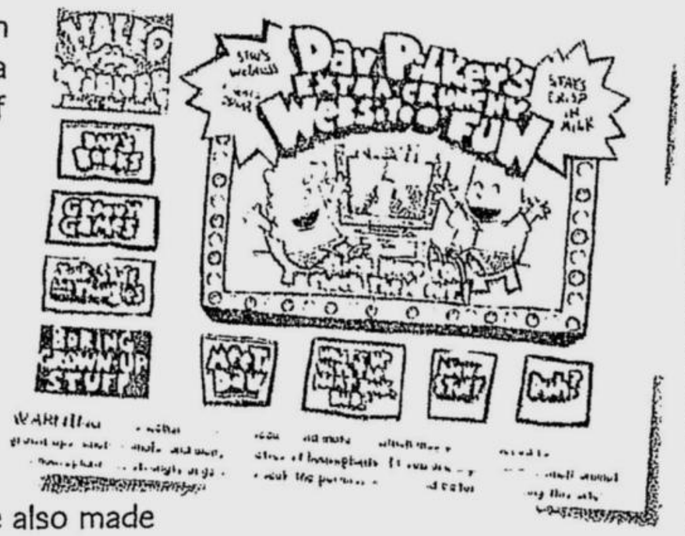

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RATING: ☆☆☆☆

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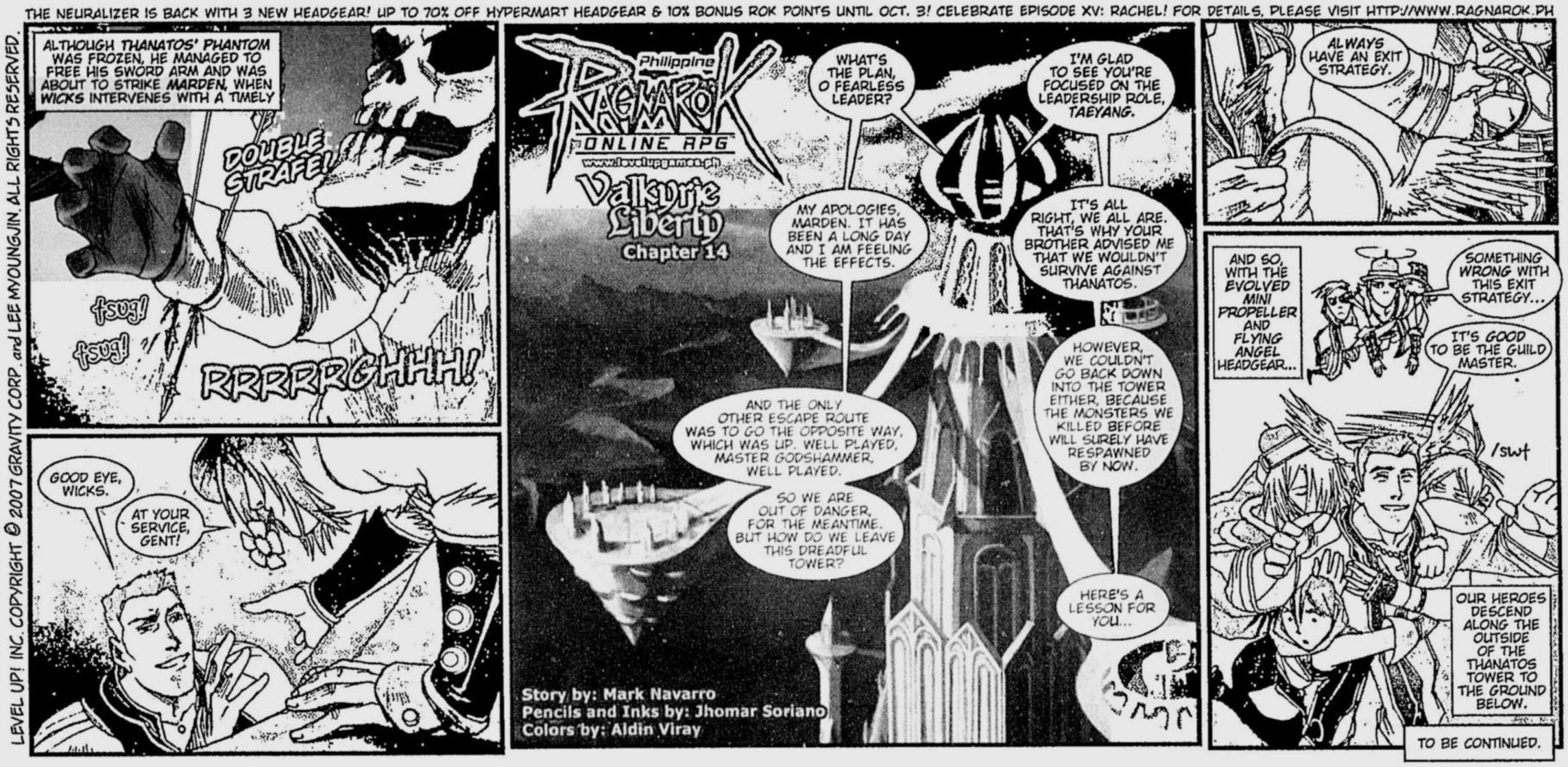
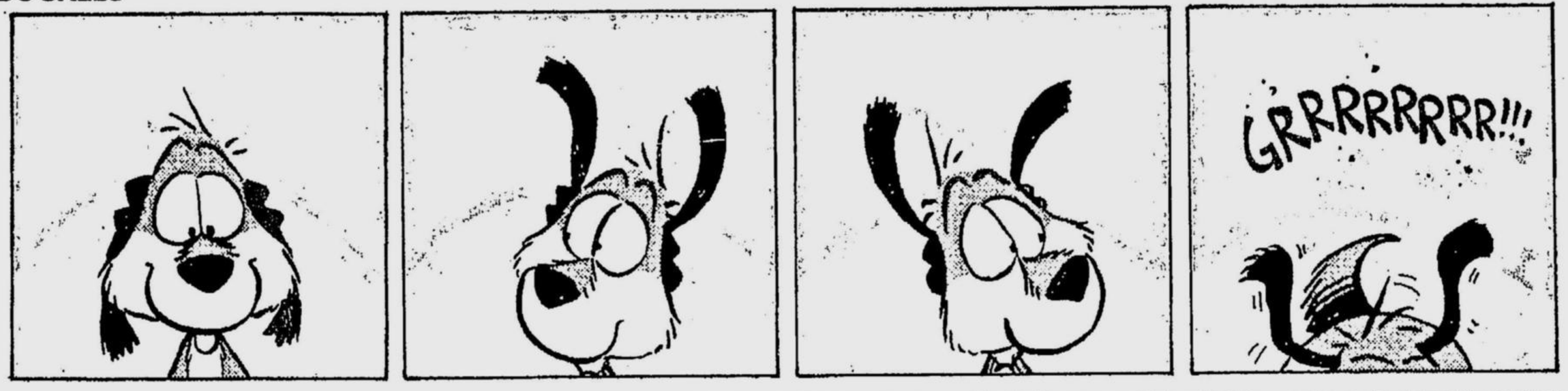


PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT



ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO

*sunday*INQUIRER*magazine*

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ESSAY

By Mike L Tan

In their parents' long shadow

Preserving the family name and legacy may mean breaking the mold, introducing new ways of thinking and doing things, and being their own persons.

All in the family: Political and showbiz clans (from top left, clockwise) Jean and Jenica Garcia, Sen. Lito Lapid and sons Maynard and Mark, Sen. Bong Revilla and son Jolo, Sen. Nene Pimentel and son Koko

POLITICAL and showbiz clans are all too familiar to Filipinos. Certainly, we're not unique in this regard, with similar dynasties throughout the region and in the world.

This "all in the family" approach is not a bad thing in itself. For much of human history, occupations were primarily family affairs, a legacy or *minamana* in Filipino. Out in the rural areas, we find generations upon generations of farmers and fisherfolk.

Traditional healers such as the *albularyo* (herbalist) and *manghihilot* (bone-setter/massage specialist) often pick up their skills from their parents. Some Filipino mystical healers, including those believed to be capable of casting spells, are said to summon a favored child shortly before they die and regurgitate a *mutya* or a magical stone. To acquire the parent's power, the son or daughter will have to ingest this *mutya*.

Fortunately we don't need a *mutya* these days for most other professions and occupations. Yet it's amazing to see how children follow their elders' footsteps, picking up not just particular skills but also style and demeanor. A few years back, I met for the first time a young aspiring politician, whose style of talking and body language left me feeling rather uneasy in the way they reeked of traditional politics with its exuberant superficiality. It took me two to three minutes to suddenly realize, "This guy is his mother's son"...he was coming through exactly like his mother, a veteran politician.

Such cases do leave me feeling uncomfortable because quite often, I can see the heavy hand of a parent or some other elder intent on cloning themselves with the next generation. You see it with politicians and movie stars who start their children young, bringing them into the limelight early in life and making them participate in their parents' song and dance routines.

Again, let me emphasize that there is nothing wrong with wanting children to pick up on the clan's expertise or occupational niche. What I do worry about is the way parents try too hard at cloning themselves. I see that every time we have elections, with campaign posters showing the candidate posing with a parent, usually a former politician.

Life isn't easy for children who feel obligated to follow their parents' act. I've seen this time and time again with unhappy students in medical schools who were forced into the profession by other doctors in the family. Some have told me that the pressure extends to having to follow their parents' specialization.

I see the unhappy results in showbiz as well, where sons and daughters try to make their mark on the silver screen but just don't have what their parents did. Yet the worst that can happen in showbiz is ham acting. When politicians try too hard to live up to their parents' names, there can be much more harm done to the politicians themselves and to their constituents. Political psychologists—people who look at the personalities of politicians—love to probe into the possible impact of the family backgrounds of politicians on these leaders' style of governance. In the United States, George W. Bush's stubbornness and hawkish policies have sometimes been interpreted as his way of proving he is a better president than his father, George Herbert Walker Bush, was. The elder Bush is remembered for the Gulf War in 1990-1991, when he went after Saddam Hussein after the latter invaded Kuwait. But the elder Bush stopped the military operations as soon as Saddam withdrew from Kuwait. Bush the Son was intent on going after Saddam even if it meant invading Iraq and found an excuse to do so after the Twin Towers attack in September 2001. Now the whole world is paying for Bush Junior's mistakes.

Japan's former Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, lasted only a year in office, in part because he was quite inflexible with his conservative politics. Abe's failure may have come from trying to follow a tough act: he had a grandfather and a granduncle who were also prime ministers, and conservative ones at that.

I wonder too, about the Philippines being governed by Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Her father, Diosdado Macapagal was president from 1960 to 1964, and sometimes people wonder if her style of governance can be traced back to having spent part of her childhood in Malacañang, and then having to move out, after her father failed in a re-

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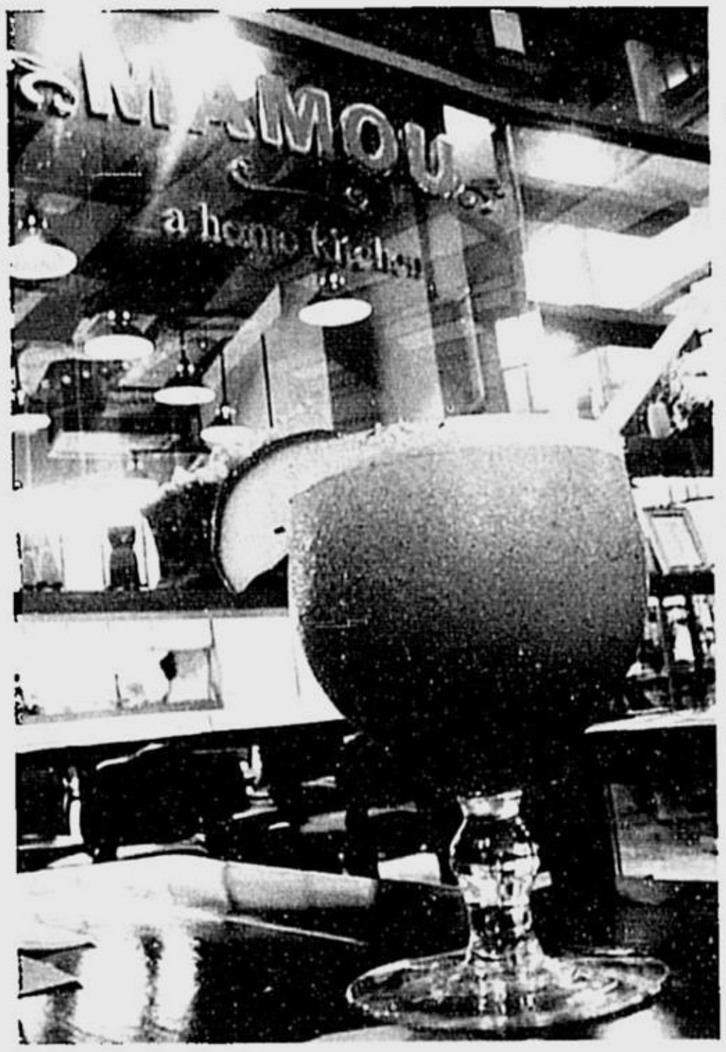
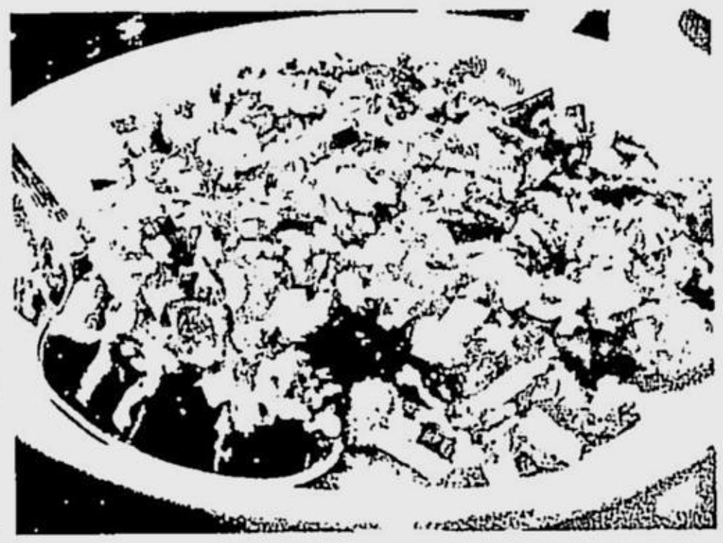
Text and photographs by Margaux Salcedo

Fit for a Queen

When you match impeccable taste with tender loving care in the kitchen, the result is a restaurant fit for a queen, whether of the box office or of the country.





Mamou's best: (clockwise from left) Mojito, Tuyo Salad and Roast Pork and Chicken

ASKING the waiter for recommendations, I received the oddest reply: "Ma'am, President GMA ordered our steak." The President? In Serendra?! Apparently the First Family had the restaurant closed to celebrate the birthday of Dato, the President's son who is now congressman of Camarines Sur. The whole family, including grandchildren, was there and enjoyed the steak. I checked the menu. Prime Angus Beef. But of course.

Intrigued by the waiter's marketing pitch, I pressed on. "Any other bestsellers?" He replied: "Ma'am, Imelda Marcos had the fish 'n chips." What about President Ramos? "He hasn't been here." Erap? "He is in Tanay *po*." I laughed. What about actors? "Judy Ann Santos, ma'am, ordered the duck." My guest and I giggled. I ordered the duck. What can I say, I'm a Juday fan.

The restaurant is Mamou and the crowd that gathers at this Serendra bistro is as interesting as the food you will find on your plate. At lunch on a Sunday it would not be unusual to be seated within hearing distance of Gina Lopez or Lizzie Zobel, as I was the Sunday I had lunch. On that Sunday, the waiter did not give me an enumeration of the A-listers who have dined at the bistro and what they ordered. It was my third visit, and I made a mental note to see if it was a restaurant practice. Happily, it is not. I must have just been assigned to a starstruck waiter eager to enumerate the big names he had seen.

What is the attraction of this place? I wondered as I watched the waiter by the door hand out calling cards to people standing outside, hoping to chance upon a table. It is next to impossible to get a table at Mamou if you don't have a reservation.

I was lucky enough to get a table outside on my first visit, walking in a little before 6 in the evening. We were the only customers but all the tables were reserved. An elegant woman reminiscent of Maggy Prescott (the actress Kay Thompson) in the movie "Funny Face" approached our table for two. "Are you college students?" she asked after exchanging hellos. "Students of life! Are you Mamou?" I asked in the most perky college student-y way. "No, I'm Annie. But you may call me Tita Annie. That's what all the younger ones call me. Malou is my younger sister. My nephew couldn't pronounce Malou and kept calling her 'Mamou,' so there it is," she explained in her well-enunciated Connecticut English.

Tita Annie, as we were allowed to call her, is one-third the charm of Mamou. I realize this a few afternoons later while having some spring rolls in neighboring Zao, watching her hover about the bistro, making sure everything's okay.

"Malou is the chef?" I asked on that first visit. "No, she's not a chef. She's a cook! She wasn't trained as a chef but she likes to cook. This is her first restaurant venture, although she also owns Blue Kitchen, that little deli in the Rockwell mall," *Tita* Annie had answered.

A sampling of the food will tell you that in fact, Malou Fores, the superwoman behind Mamou, is no chef. The presentations are simple, the cooking straight up, making you understand why it is self-described as "a home kitchen." However, she is definitely a gourmet. She knows her food and has exquisite taste.

The cheese appetizer, for instance, although served sparingly, uses Italian cheese and fuet, a delicious Catalonian salami. The duck asparagus sandwich, although wastefully drowned in mayo, had a sprinkling of curry powder that is almost invisible to the eye but clearly seen with the tongue. All over the menu is the choice for red rice. And the sans rival is made wicked by its unusual layers of chocolate.

Malou apparently likes to capitalize on the natural flavors of her ingredients. A refreshing salad of red rice and tomatoes is given flavor with our very own *tuyo* (dried herring). A soup has lamb meatballs. The Bolognese pasta, executed very well, uses Batac, Ilocos sausage for a slightly spicy bite. And the red rice that accompanies the crispy roast duck is given character by the addition of chorizo.

The fish 'n chips that former First Lady Imelda had was rather ordinary, but the steak that our incumbent President feasted on is a hefty slab of beef that is a very juicy and tasty indulgence. Steaks are popping up everywhere nowadays but the steak at Mamou is highly recommendable. It's quite

(continued on page 12)

By Leica R. Carpo

In her own fashion

She's proud of her dad, former Solicitor General Frank Chavez and his legal practice, but fashion designer Ingrid Chavez says her passion lies elsewhere

Family pride: Ingrid with parents Frank and Jean Chavez

"ON numerous occasions, strangers would approach him and say, you are the best senator this country never had," Ingrid Chavez says proudly of her father, former Solicitor General Frank Chavez who once lost a senatorial bid.

Appointed Sol Gen when Ingrid was still in high school, the elder Chavez handled so many controversial cases that the phrase "death threats" easily became part of his teenage daughter's vocabulary.

Can the apple fall far from the tree? Did Ingrid ever consider following in her dad's famous footsteps? While she concedes that the human aspects of some of her father's cases interested her, Ingrid says that the technical aspects of the legal practice—memorizing the laws of the land and being up to date on Supreme Court rulings—left her cold. Her passion lay elsewhere and law school was never an option. Instead, she set her sights on a career in fashion.

So while her father escaped to his study room after dinner to confront huge piles of paperwork, Ingrid would either be glued to Fashion TV or poring over designer ad campaigns.

Her infatuation with fashion started in high school when she would buy fashion magazines and get lost in their glossy pages, she reveals. Her travels abroad meant familiarizing herself with name brands and merchandise selection. She would also score flea markets and bargain meccas for her style fix.

Fortunately, there was never any pressure for her to venture into Law. "My parents gave us the freedom to discover our likes and passions," says Ingrid of herself and her two sisters. "My sister Katrina is a graduate of UCLA (University of California at Los Angeles) and majored in aesthetic dentistry. In a way, she is also into the art of beauty through teeth whitening, proportion, etc. My other sister Stephanie finished Political Science and now threatens to be a lawyer."

Agrees paterfamilias Frank Chavez: "I allow my daughters, including Ingrid , to blossom into what they want to be. I assist them in finding their real aptitude and give them full support and backing."

So what about the family business, one asks. "We have no family business," the lawyer answers. "We are all professionals pursuing the lofty demands of our respective calling. Nobody takes over anybody's business in the family. Each one has his or her own horizon to explore."

Ingrid's career choice, he adds, fits her personality: "(She's) inventive, trailblazing, persistent and free. In the Philippines, (fashion) looks like a vastly untapped area that could gather its own sophistication." He'd like to see her with "her own line and brand of fashion that is competitive in creation, trending and global acceptability," says this proud father.

The daughter is equally proud of and delighted with her father. After all, growing up with a famous lawyer in the family has certain perks, Ingrid admits. "Well, there's free legal advice, free notary services from his office when I lose my driver's license or ID, and getting capital or seed money." Such ties also meant seeing President Aquino for the first time in Malacañang , she adds. "That is one memorable incident I can never forget."

Her schooldays in Italy are worth remembering as well, says Ingrid. "It was expensive but worth every euro spent. There is nothing like being in the fashion capital of Europe, Milan, and hearing first hand from the prime movers of Italy's fashion machinery. You study, live and breathe fashion everywhere you go. You meet students and professionals in the design business from all over the world."

She also learned to conserve her resources. "I was lucky to find an apartment that was less than five minutes' walk to Istituto Marangoni so I saved on transportation expense. The Duomo and Vittorio Emmanuelle were also just around the corner," she adds of two of Italy's famous tourist sites.

While going to Italy meant "quality education, exposure to international ideas, forging global links and the opportunity to create multi-cultural friendships," things could be tough as well, shares Ingrid. "The language barrier sometimes bred impatience and stress as work momentum was of utmost importance," she recalls.

(continued on page 12)

FEATURE

Lightning Strikes Thrice

Filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik did not deliberately mold his three sons to follow the artist's path. But genes, exposure and environment happily sealed their fate, note siblings Kidlat, Kawayan and Kabunyan

By Elizabeth Lolarga

Ev Espiritu/Inquirer Northern Luzon

The family (and video camera) (clockwise from top) Kidlat de Guia Kawayan de Guia and dad Kidlat Tahimik, who is wearing a photo of himself on Kabunyan de Guia on his belly

FOR filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik (formerly Eric de Guia) raising three sons was "a struggle between (his) bourgeois upbringing and coping with the New Age."

Marrying Katrin Muller, a German from the '60s generation, "may have helped unshackle me from the Spanish macho culture of Pinoy males," he muses.

Their children, Kidlat Gottlieb Kalayaan Muller, Kawayan Kalayaan Thor and Kabunyan Cedric Enrique, became their "*barkada* (peer) which I don't regret to this day. The only thing I did to sort of 'educate' them was to awaken their *sariling duende*," the last defined as "a unique way of framing the world in art or in life because that is what makes us world-class artists, not clones of Western big names," the nationalist in Kidlat, 64, explains.

Since the boys were growing up, they were on first-name basis with their father. They addressed him as Eric, "a convention in German communes," says Kidlat.

Kawayan, 27, recalls: "We all called him Eric up to the time he decided to change his name to Kidlat." Since there would be confusion because his older brother is also named Kidlat, they made the transition to calling their father Erpats, *Tatay* or Kabigat (after the son of Bugan and Weygan in Cordillera mythology and also because it was the name given him by the people of Pat-pat village in Hungduan, Ifugao, who see him as some kind of *manong* or old man.

The three boys became alumni of the Special Education Center, a public school in Baguio City. Later, Kidlat the son went to the Philippine Science High School (PSHS), Kawayan to the Philippine High School for the Arts and Kabunyan to the Community of Learners.

Kidlat the son, 32, a documentary filmmaker, was the first and only one to show some kind of resistance when he went to the PSHS for secondary schooling and to the University of the Philippines Baguio where he was listed as a biology major.

"I was jumping around, taking a lot of math, wanting to go into computer science," he recounts. After five years there he moved to UP Diliman where he shifted to broadcast communication, "a conscious choice. If I went into film, everybody would say they expected that because of my father. Broadcasting was more geared towards television directing and hosting. But becoming an anchor was not what I wanted to do. I wanted to be different, but I ended up wanting to do films. So why fight it? I realize that my father and I aren't doing the same things anyway."

As children, the three boys were allowed to play with their father's camera equipment unlike other fathers who would have feared for the expensive gear.

Says Kawayan of Erpats, "He has had a lot of influence in my life not in terms of my craft but with my upbringing. We were constantly brainwashed about nationalism, anti-imperialism, anti-colonialism. As a family we would celebrate Rizal Day (Dec. 30) instead of Christmas. The giving of gifts happens on Rizal Day. "

He continues: "We were given an awareness of political issues. At a young age I really didn't get to test the ideology. My thing happened (when I grew up). It's even more twisted. I'm a white-looking kid fighting for something Filipino or trying to find my Filipino identity."

Kidlat the father did not consciously mold his sons to follow the artist's path. Kawayan, who has made a name for himself for his mixed media and installation works, says, "I was the one who, at a young age, wanted to be an artist even if I didn't know yet the true value of being one."

The choice was inevitable. The boys were brought by their parents to art exhibit openings, to deeper parts of the Cordillera, to anti-Marcos rallies, to film festivals abroad where they would perform with their father in their g-string.

Kidlat the son adds, "It's exposure to a cultural environment at an early age. We got to know the whole art community where we were living in. It wasn't a separate thing like a museum tour. We were encouraged to play, to think up our own things and to think outside the box."

Kabunyan, 25, recalls that apart from art openings and street performances, the people they met were mainly artists or children of artists. "(At a young age), we became aware of a world that was more colorful and alive, and that really made us more open as persons in the way we look at life."

He adds that one of his Erpats' biggest influence was his philosophy of "*bathala na*," not to be confused with "*bahala na*"

(continued on page 11)

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Same difference

Model Isabelle Diaz Daza may have her mother, Gloria Diaz's good looks and some of her views, but the two are distinct individuals who are products of their times

Romy Homillada

Family resemblance: Isabelle and Gloria both tread the beauty path

BY all discernible indications, she is her mother's daughter.

No matter how vigorously Isabelle Diaz Daza denies it, glimpses of that inimitable Gloria Diaz charm sneak in in mid-conversation. "People say we look alike," Isabelle concedes.

Is the 19-year-old model for the Human line of fashion wear the mini-me of Miss Universe 1969? "No, I'm taller," Isabelle quips, quick on the draw.

Despite the younger Daza's protests, her similarities to her mother are more than skin deep. Even their opinions on diverse topics converge at some point, their answers to the same questions remarkably similar.

Asserts Gloria: "My daughters Isabelle and Ava are very much like me because they grew up with me." The former beauty queen is "separated from but remains friendly with" husband Bong Daza, with whom she also has a grown son, Rafael, 22.

But she is more sheltered that her children, Gloria reveals of the three youngsters who can mingle freely with people from all walks of life. Her own youth was more structured, she adds. "I was an *interna* in St. Theresa's Baguio. The first time I crossed a street was when I was in the US for the Miss Universe pageant."

Her kids are more independent, she says. "Isabelle knows how to drive. She even traveled to Paris, France, on her own this summer."

Not without incident, recounts Isabelle who missed her plane ride home. "My flight was at 10 a.m. but I woke up at 10:20. I freaked out. I had to book the next flight and do everything on my own."

"She had to pay extra, but she made it," Gloria says, adding that the incident stressed her out. "I'm the kind of mom who's a control freak *pa naman*. I always give her unsolicited advice!"

That's a common cause of discord between them, Gloria owns up. "Isabelle gets upset when we argue about little things."

Agrees the daughter: "Mom often tells me to put on more eye make up because my eyes look *maga* (swollen)."

Retorts the mother: "She complains that she looks like a raccoon! I guess it's because kids are into the natural look these days. They only wear lip gloss and very little make up. But that won't look good in pictorials and TV shoots. I'd tell her: 'You'd look washed out.'"

Finally, Mom ends the argument in characteristic fashion: "You better listen, Belle. Between the two of us, who has the bigger billboard on Edsa?'"

Today's kids, Gloria acknowledges, are very strong-willed and it's best for a parent not to be overprotective. Isabelle doesn't really mind. "My mom is actually lenient," she points out. "She's very caring and concerned for my well-being. I know she only wants the best for me although at times, it can be exag [exaggerated]."

Gloria puts it all down to the more conservative world she had known. "I was already 17 when I was allowed to use the phone. I could only go to parties once every three months," she recounts. "But my kids don't have a curfew and they can use the phone anytime they want."

But being a liberal parent may not be a conscious choice on her part, says Gloria. "It just happened that way. Times have changed and as a parent, I have to adjust. I've even learned how to say sorry—even if I don't feel like it 100 percent."

She counsels other moms not to be too strict. "Give your children a little freedom, but shower them with constant reminders. And always keep your eyes open to make sure they won't end up with the wrong set of friends."

Education, however, is non-negotiable.

"We're okay for as long as she maintains good grades in school," Gloria says of Isabelle, who's a junior taking up Early Childhood Education at De La Salle University.

Universal moment: Gloria's coronation in 1969

The Beauty Book

Isabelle's choice of college course surprised her, says Gloria. "I never knew she was interested in educating children," she owns up. To which Isabelle responds: "I started tutoring kids when I was in high school. I taught religion to the Don Bosco boys. I had a lot of fun then." She loves children," she adds. "I often baby-sit my nephew Alfonso and niece Paris. They sleep in my room whenever they visit."

Though being a pre-school teacher is an ideal career for her daughter, modeling also beckons. Recalls Gloria: "I was more excited than Isabelle when [Human owner] Ben Chan offered her the endorsement deal. Like any mom, I just wanted to see my daughter on a billboard along Edsa." There is talk that Isabelle may soon follow her mom's footsteps as a future beauty queen and actress, but she denies this vehemently: "I have no plans of joining show biz or Miss Universe."

The varsity member of her school's football team is not so keen about the glamour biz. She recounts: "Once after shooting a commercial for Rockwell, I told my mom that I was super tired and that I don't think I have what it takes to be an actress. She was like: 'Thank God!' She was relieved."

Not that she'd interfere with their career choice, says Gloria. "I assure my kids: after you finish school, you can do whatever you want. You can be an *artista* or a hippie. Of course, they don't know what a hippie is."

A case of generation gap, apparently, but one that appears to be fairly surmountable: "My kids often correct me whenever I say things that date me," recalls Gloria. "When I say Highway 54 instead of Edsa or Dewey instead of Roxas Boulevard, they scream: `That's so dinosaur!' "•

Figure it out

19.4 million – number of votes garnered by 2004 senatorial election topnotcher Sen. Mar Roxas II, son of former Senator Gerry Roxas and grandson of former President Manuel Roxas

2.3 million–number of passengers carried by Cebu Pacific in the first half of 2007. Cebu Pacific's current President and CEO is Lance Gokongwei, son of taipan John Gokongwei Jr.

11.5 billion–consolidated net income of Ayala Corp. for the first half of 2007, currently headed by CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, son of real estate tycoon Jaime Zobel de Ayala.

11–number of companies managed by JAKA Investments Corp. under the umbrella of the JAKA Group, headed by President and CEO Katrina Ponce Enrile, daughter of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

10 million and up–price range for endorsements by KC Concepcion, daughter of megastar Sharon Cuneta

Over P200 million–total gross earnings of 2006 horror blockbuster flick, "Sukob," which starred Kris Aquino, daughter of former President Corazon Aquino.

23.6 million–population aged 20 to 39 in RP (2000)

15.5 percent–percentage of population aged 20 to 39 in Metro Manila (2000)•

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research
Sources: Inquirer Archives, Cebu Pacific official website, Ayala Corp. official website, official website of JAKA group, NSCB

By Ruel S. De Vera

Luck of the Draw

Artists Jess and Mannix Abrera represent the strongest of designs in their personal and professional lives.

Roger Carpio

Colorful lives: Mannix (l) and Jess Abrera

THERE is a palpable certainty in the deceptively simple but indelible lines that artist Jess Abrera, Jr. employs for his trademark cartoons. The lines are solid and sure, shaping a recognizable character in a few quick strokes. The lines continue, one after the other, unbroken.

That is in many ways how Jess, the Philippine Daily Inquirer's award-winning editorial cartoonist, lives his life. "*Matanda na ako* (I'm old)," he says, laughing in his earnestly easygoing manner. After all, the University of the Philippines Fine Arts graduate has always savored working in his art, as he is also a painter, a children's book illustrator and a photographer.

It shouldn't come as a surprise then that Jess's eldest child, 25-year-old Manuel Luis "Mannix" Abrera, should follow in his father's footsteps--the same direction, but with a different rhythm perhaps. Because aside from being a freelance artist best known for his cartoon strip "Kikomachine" in the Inquirer, Mannix is also part of the band Kiko Machine.

Married to UP history professor Bernadette Lorenzo Abrera for 27 years now, Jess has two other children; 21-year-old Miguel, a Jesuit Volunteer in Catarman, Northern Samar, and 13-year-old seventh grader Isa. "They are my critics, analysts, and occasional fans," says Jess who has always been artistic as a child, drawing Superman, cars and airplanes for his cousins and playmates.

Throughout his stay with the Inquirer, Jess helped define the newspaper's look with his cartoons. He remembers that Kalabaw, the wisecracking carabao, emerged from "A.Lipin" and became a PDI mainstay. When Junior Inquirer was launched, Kalabaw became its headliner and was later renamed Guyito after a subsequent write-in contest came up with the name.

Although proud and fulfilled to be an artist, Jess never chose a profession for his offspring, though he suspected that they would probably wind up in the same field. All the children have artistic talent, and Mannix followed his father's example seriously. He made his own comics as a kid, hiding them all over the place. "*Hanggang ngayong nakikita ko pa yung mga yun* (Until now I still find those)," Mannix says. He graduated from his father's alma mater, UP, with a degree in Fine Arts major in Visual Communication in 2003. It was in UP, and as a member of the Philippine Collegian, that Mannix concocted "Kikomachine," the comic strip. "I loved student life and all sorts of Pinoy things and all kinds of weirdness and that became the foundation of 'Kikomachine,'" he says enthusiastically in Filipino. "Rakenrol!"

Son and father, by Jess Abrera

He never felt any pressure to follow his father's career choice, says Mannix because it had always been his dream. That, and to become an astronaut. Well, so he still wants to be an astronaut, but only in the distant future, he says, when we have "super-intelligent robots." That, or become a teacher.

While all the Abrera kids were taught piano and guitar, Mannix discovered music in Grade Six when he first heard "Zombie" by the Cranberries. No, really. Once in college, he and his Fine Arts friends formed a band also called Kiko Machine (for clarity's sake, "Kikomachine" the strip is one word, while Kiko Machine the band is two). That band has appeared on TV and has released an album. To balance his two passions, Mannix makes sure that all his requirements are done, even submitting his cartoon strips way in advance before he has to go to a nighttime gig for the band.

"Kikomachine" the strip has been Mannix's favorite project, as he is psyched about the

impending release of the third compilation, "Kikomachine Komix Blg.3: Die, Die Evil! Die!" Jess is quite impressed by Mannix's strip. "Seriously, I think it's the comics of his generation," Jess says, adding that he is constantly surprised by the number of Mannix's fans. For his part, Mannix is awed by his father's artistic legacy. "*Astig*!" Mannix exclaims.

Having been given the freedom to do as he pleased has truly helped Mannix find himself as an artist, he says. Now, he is hard at work on his many "secret projects." Armed with his video camera, he says he goes off to wander and find ideas for his comic strip: "*Umikot-ikot kung saan-saan para makakalap ng mga* idea *para sa komix*."

Another thing that Mannix has picked up from his father was the love for cycling. The Abreras usually bike from their home in Antipolo, Rizal. Otherwise, Mannix says he and his father like to sit around exchanging all sorts of funny stories. Mannix has also been doing dives and clean-up efforts after joining the UP Marine Biological Society and the UP Dragonboat team.

Jess continues to immerse himself in art. "I look forward to other fields in the arts, like sculpture, ceramics," he explains. "I want to teach art to children in poor communities as a service." A deeply spiritual person, Jess has a seriousness about his faith and his causes that belies his easy laugh and quick quips: "My advocacy is against pornography in media and I help in diocesan projects that promote family and life." He continues: "Dette and I see to it that we have a strong family life. If my kids have their own families later on, this will serve as their model."

In that sense, Jess has only one piece of advice for his son: "*Dapat maganda ang trabaho niya. Pipipiliin niya ang* client. *Hindi ang bayad ang mahalaga kundi ang* integrity. *Sa* comics, *binabasa namin at ginagabayan siya na dapat walang masasamang salita o* immoral issues *kasi may impluensiya sa mga batang* readers *niya* (He should do good work and choose his clients carefully. Integrity is more important than money. We read his comics and guide him to make sure there are no bad words or immoral issues because he influences his young readers)."

Mannix knows that in style and process, he and his father are different. But he also knows they're similar in so many other ways. "*Pareho kaming madaling matawa, madrama, mahilig sa kalikasan, at pareho kaming kapag nagdo*-drawing *ng* expressions, *e ginagawa talaga namin sa mukha namin* unconciously *yung mismong* expression. (We're both quick to laugh, somewhat dramatic, like nature, and, when we're drawing facial expressions, we unconsciously mimic what we're drawing)." Father and son are still clearly having fun in their drawings. The line continues, strong as ever.•

Lightning strikes thrice (from page 7)

(Let it be). The philosophy, according to the youngest son, allows the person to play and interact with the cosmos in such a happy manner.

He cites the mosaic group that he and his friends put up and the process of their work in Filipino, "*Imbes na putulin mo ang* tiles *at puro* straight lines, *itinatapon na lang namin ito sa* air. (Instead of cutting the tiles and forming straight lines, we'd throw them in the air). We'd let the randomness of their fall decide the curves and shape of the design."

Kabunyan recounts that another legacy from his father was the stress on the process rather than the outcome. If they are happy while doing their work and their energy level is high, the work comes out good in the end. Even if no one initially takes an interest in buying it or they receive negative comments about their work, the elder Kidlat is confident that the world is full of many people and one would eventually come around to liking the piece.

What the three are unanimous about is how great their father is as a companion, especially when they were growing up, because he was *tatay* first and filmmaker second. Says Kawayan: "He incorporated his family in his art. That's a very hard thing for an artist to do. He found a way of documenting us as we were growing up and making us part of his filmmaking." The results can be seen in the films "Why is Yellow the Middle of the Rainbow?," which took 13 years to make (covering Kawayan and the others from their toddler years to teenhood), "*Bahag Ko, Mahal Ko*" and "Holy Wood (*Banal Kahoy*)."

Kidlat the son says of his father: "He's the total reverse of a typical father. When I was about to leave for a party in my jeans and t-shirt, he asked, 'Don't you have anything more colorful to wear than black and white?'

He continues, "But like any other family we have squabbles. We're free to express our opinions even loudly, *parang dalawang kidlat na nagtatamaan*. On the surface we may disagree, but on a deeper level there is a strong connection."

Which in the end is all that matters.•

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

. 9 .	7 . 2	. 3 .
8 4 .	. 9 .	. 1 5
. . .	. . .	. . .
6 . .	. . .	. . 1
. 1 .	. 2 .	. 9 .
3 . .	. . .	. . 6
. . .	. . .	. . .
9 8 .	. 1 .	. 4 7
. 6 .	5 . 4	. 2 .

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Answers in PDI, Oct. 8 issue

Answer to previous puzzle
PDI, Oct.6

5 6 9	4 7 3	1 8 2
3 1 2	5 8 9	4 6 7
4 7 8	1 2 6	5 9 3
2 9 4	8 3 5	7 1 6
6 8 7	9 1 4	2 3 5
1 5 3	7 6 2	9 4 8
7 3 1	2 9 8	6 5 4
9 4 6	3 5 7	8 2 1
8 2 5	6 4 1	3 7 9

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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Fit for a Queen (from page 5)

steep at P1,680 for a single serving of 400 grams but then again, it's prime Angus beef, and already sliced in the kitchen for your convenience.

Juday's Roast Duck—if that is really what she ordered—was also very pleasant, and I appreciated the succulence under its crisp exterior. But my personal favorite was something more peasant, the Roast Pork & Chicken. If you don't let the plain presentation of the buttered onions just lying lazily on top of the rice disturb you, you will appreciate the taste of summer in the citrus-rubbed pork. You will definitely savor the savory with this one.

But the meals make up for only another third of the charm of Mamou. The dishes are not exceptional— there is no foie gras creme brulee or gorgonzola souffle or other frou frou signature dish—although all are very well executed. The final factor, therefore, is Malou Fores herself, whom you will see in the kitchen in a bun and crocs, making sure that each meal is properly prepared. And when the cooking is done she will go around herself and ask if you need an extra glass of iced tea or another fork for a shared dish, and if everything is all right.

That is the secret of Mamou. There's nothing fancy; there's just really good food...presented simply but properly, prepared lovingly and served personally. This shows you that when you match impeccable taste with tender loving care in the kitchen, the result is a restaurant fit for a queen...whether of the box office or of the country.

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In her own fashion (from page 6)

Just as difficult was "meeting deadlines for each class because projects required long hours of extensive research and analysis. Apart from these projects, we were also bombarded with exercises and tests. In a point system school where the grades of each student were announced aloud during class, there was extreme pressure to be competitive and remain consistent," Ingrid points out.

But all that has only honed her appetite. "I would like to be in fashion retail and promotion, and work for a prestigious fashion company," she reveals. Starting her own garment business is another option, though she admits that much remains to be done "to put the house in order, like government support and assistance to new designers in the areas of production and distribution."

Continues Ingrid: "If we are to attract the international market, we should be meticulous with quality control, design upgrade and execution. Government should play a major role in revitalizing our textile industry to cut production costs and make our prices competitive. It also has to assist our designers and manufacturers by simplifying the export process, providing financial assistance and support to manufacturers, promoting local labels and encouraging the establishment of excellent design schools.Thailand and Singapore have set their national will and vision to promote their designers. We can do it too."

If Ingrid Chavez sounds less like a fashion designer and more like a lawmaker with those words, well, you know where she's coming from.•

Proving his Own Worth

By Jasmine W. Payo
Photographs by Rudy Esperas

Ateneo Blue Eaglets' center Kiefer Ravena has often been compared to his father Bong, who was once named Rookie of the Year. People's expectations, says the son, have been both burden and legacy.

Winning forms: Kiefer (left) as a Blue Eaglet, Bong (above) as a Pasig Pirate

MINUTES before 13-year-old Kiefer Ravena takes the center court, his father Ferdinand "Bong" Ravena speaks to him about the task at hand. And simple as his message may be, Bong's reminder always gets through. Kiefer knows, after all, that his dad has been through it many times before.

"Every time he has a game, I just tell him to play hard, play defense, the older Ravena shares. "I don't care about his offense. I always remind him to stop your man."

The advice is most welcome as Kiefer hopes to build on the legacy of his father who was named Rookie of the Year in the 1992 season of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA). "I try to compare my game to him," says Kiefer. "Before a big game or before a championship or semis, I find time to watch (my father's) games (on tape)."

And the cute, pixie-faced teen has been on the right track, making heads turn as the youngest, crafty guard of the Ateneo Blue Eaglets. This year, in fact, Kiefer is the only player to make it to the Blue Eaglets roster as a freshman.

"He's very driven," notes Bong. "He's a winner for me. At his age, he already has big responsibilities. The team relies on him. Even if he fails, we know that it will only make him tougher. He's already used to big games. That's what he likes, actually."

And this second-generation talent sending shockwaves in high school hoops knows only too well that he owes his early success partly to his dad. "I'm used to it; I know people will always compare us," admits Kiefer. "You carry that burden, there's pressure. People always want you to follow your dad's footsteps."

But Bong points out in jest that he's actually at the raw end every time he shares his son's glory. "*Ako na nga ang na*-insecure (I'm the one who gets insecure)," he says with a laugh. "*Mas magaling daw yung anak ko sa akin* (They say my son is better than me). But I'm proud of him."

Still, he quips, "*Mas mabilis lang ako sa kanya* (I'm just quicker than him)."

The high expectations are not suprising. The athletic gene runs pure and strong in Kiefer's blood: His mom Mozzy is a former collegiate volleyball player as well. So there's really no need to push the 5-foot-7-and-growing freshman.

"He's an all-basketball kid," says Bong. "His main strength is his heart. Even if you're talented, even if you have the skills, *pero mahina naman ang loob mo* (but you're faint-hearted), you won't be able to do it. That's why it's easy to teach Kiefer. He knows he can do it, and I also know he can."

The 6-foot-3 former forward recalls that his eldest son has shown facility for basketball early on. "Even at four years old, he was already joining the Milo Best (basketball camp). Growing up, he saw me playing. He loved the game right away. There are no other sports that he likes," shares Bong.

And Kiefer's development on court has been well monitored.

"We're trying to improve his speed and defense, his outside shot," says Bong. "He doesn't necessarily have to make the game-winning shot. Even in ordinary games, if I see him make a (defensive) stop, I'm proud of him."

The paternal pride has meant déjà vu moments for Bong. "I have moves that I see in him and I really get surprised—like the pivot, the up-and-under," says the 38-year-old dad. "I was still playing when he was 8 or 9 (years old), so maybe he saw them. And in our house, I have old tapes. He watches them when he's not doing anything. He's really into basketball." Kiefer, in fact, works on some extra hoop homework even after a painful loss.

"I try to help him out. I tell him it means you need practice. Learn from it, don't make the same mistakes," notes Bong. "He gets sad, but he'll make sure to practice his weakness. He does extra the next day."

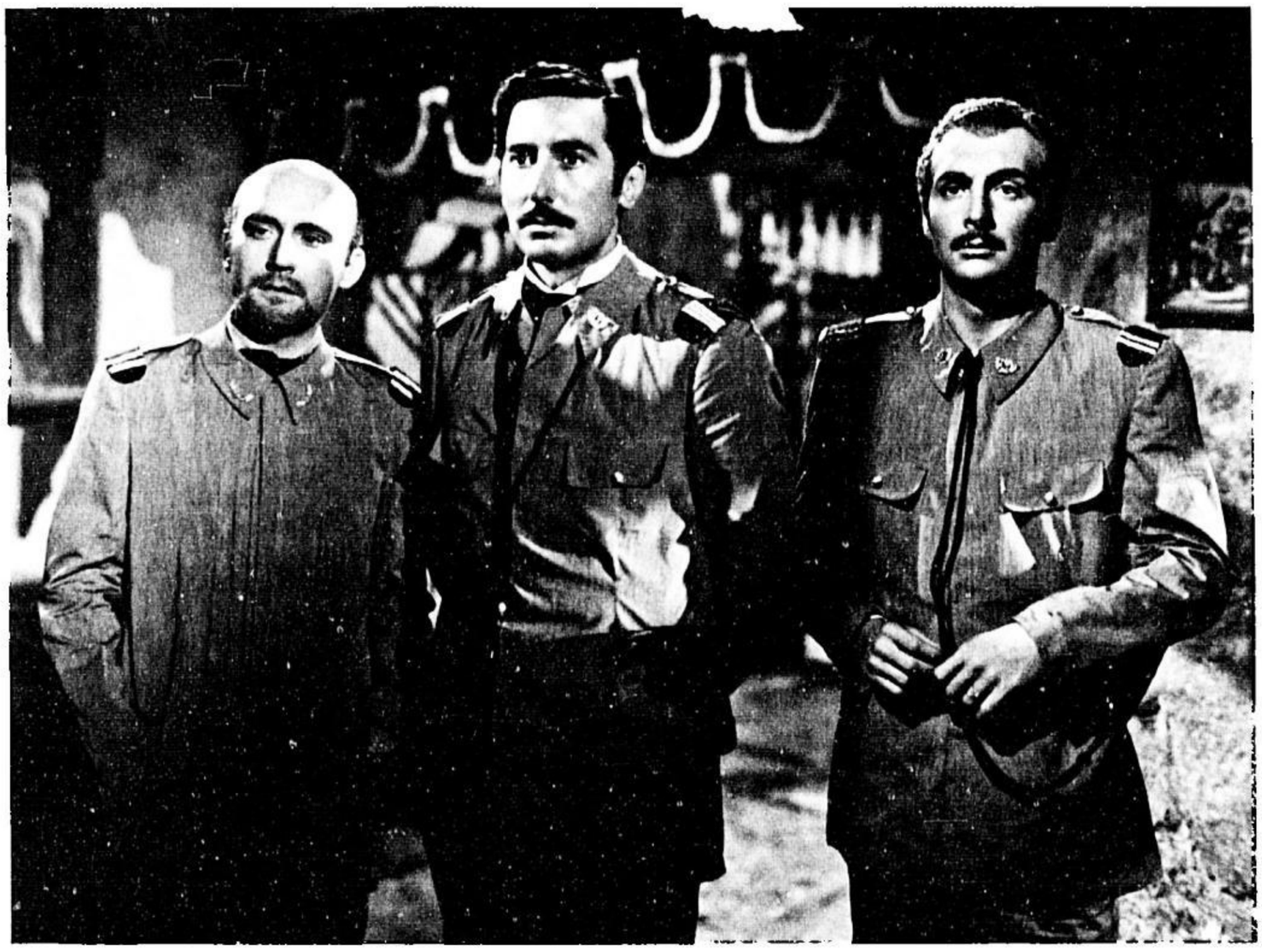
The younger Ravena explains his reason for all the double work. "I want to prove my worth," says Kiefer. "Some people may think that I only made it to the team because of my father."

Bong openly resents such undeserved put downs. "*Nakakaawa ang bata* (It's a pity for the kid)," he says. "Whatever he does, there's a chance that he'll always get compared. So I tell him to just do the right

(continued on page 15)

From Spanish Eyes

Shown as part of the annual Spanish Film Fest, "Los Ultimos de Filipinas" tells of the 1898 Philippine Revolution from the eyes of the enemy



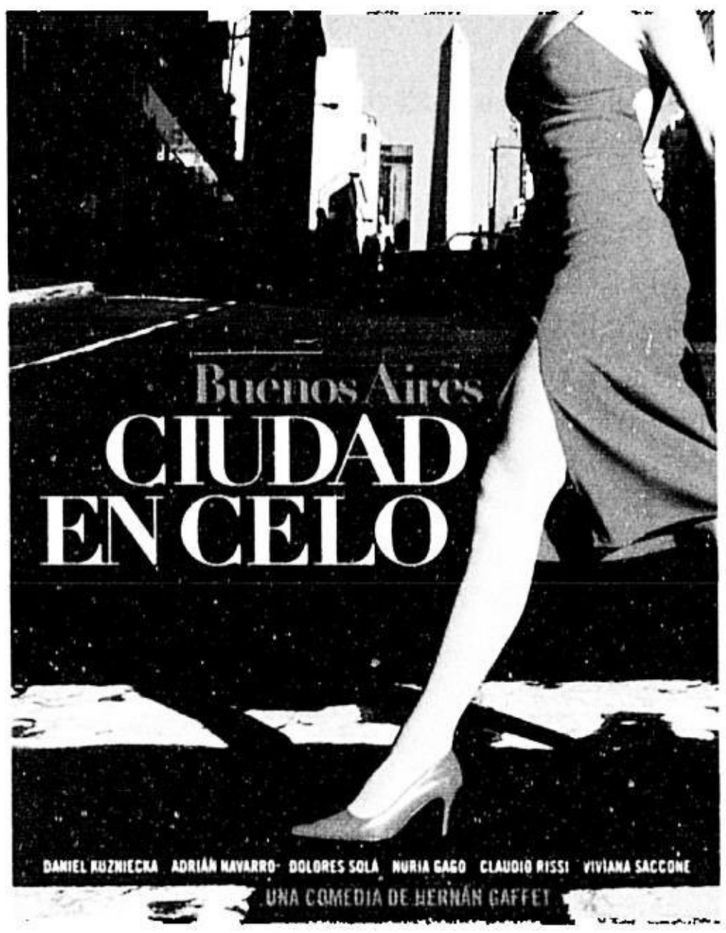
FILM buffs can catch a rare glimpse of the Philippine Revolution as seen from the other side in "Los Ultimos de Filipinas, 1898."

Directed by Antonio Roman in 1945, the film is based on the actual siege of Baler during the last days of the revolution, when a garrison of 50 Spanish soldiers held out against the Katipunan forces in the church of Baler, even after the war officially ended.

Scheduled for showing on Monday, Oct. 8 at the Greenbelt Cinema 3, "Los Ultimos de Filipinas" is just one of the highlights of "Pelicula, Pelikula," the Instituto Cervantes de Manila's annual Spanish and Latin American film festival, now on its sixth year. The filmfest is part of "Fiesta," Instituto's annual festival of culture and the arts. Free concerts, dance workshops and a Flamenco show are part of the festival as well.

"With Pelicula we bring this year an extraordinary selection of Spanish and Latin American movies, from the latest films of contemporary directors, to old classics and short documentaries. It's a must-see event in the cultural life of Manila," says Jose Rodriguez, director of the Instituto Cervantes de Manila, who has spent 25 years in the Philippines as a journalist and is married to Filipino painter Lourdes Coching.

Among the other films to be shown at the festival are:
"7 Virgenes (7 Virgins)," "La Vida Secreta de las Palabras (The Secret Life of Words)," "El Sueno de Una Noche de San Juan (One Night's Dream)," "De Profundis (From the Sea)," "Habana Blues," "Otros Dias Vendran (Other Days Will Come)," "La Noche de los Girasoles (The Night of the Sunflowers)," "La Educacion de las Hadas (The Education of the Fairies)," "Azul Oscuro casi Negro (Dark Blue, Almost Black)," "Illuminados por el Fuego (Blessed by Fire)," "Tu Vida en 65 (Your Life in 65 Minutes)," "Semen: Un Historia de Amor," "Ciudad en Celo (City In Heat)," "El Aura," "Viva Cuba," "El Proximo Oriente (The New East)," "Derecho de Familia (Family Law)," and "Invisibles."



A cultural treat: (clockwise from left) scenes from "Ciudad En Celo," "Los Ultimos de Filipinas" and "El Sueno de Una Noche de San Juan"

Screening schedules can be obtained from the Greenbelt Cinema or Instituto Cervantes de Manila (tel. 526-1482). The screenings end on October 14, with an Audience Choice Award given to the movie voted best by filmgoers. Viewers who see a minimum of five films get a chance to submit a valid ballot which also counts as a raffle ticket. The winning film will again be shown at the Instituto Cervantes Salon de Actos located at 855 T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila on Oct. 27 at 6 p.m.Or visit http://manila.cervantes.es.•

In their parents' long shadow (from page 4)

election bid. Is her clinging to power, amid scandal after scandal, partly a function of having to preserve the Macapagal name? We won't know until future historians piece the picture together.

Politicians and celebrities might want to think twice before trying to walk in the long shadows cast by their parents. Preserving the family name and legacy may mean breaking the mold, introducing new ways of thinking and doing things, and being their own persons.•

Proving his Own Worth (from page 13)

thing, play hard. You can never please everyone. Be yourself."

Kiefer also points out that blood ties can only get an athlete so far. "I don't think it's an advantage," he says. "Even if you're the son of the president of the Philippines, I think you won't make it if you're not that good inside the court." But he concedes that there are benefits to having his father as personal mentor, especially since Bong now works as assistant coach for Talk 'N Text in the PBA and on the University of the East men's team in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP).

"Sometimes he signals something during the game," says Kiefer. "Then I get post-game comments from him—what I did right, what I did wrong—so I won't do it again."

Aside from Kiefer, Bong also mentors 10-year-old son Thirdy, who's also immersed in competitive basketball. His daughter Dani, 7, meanwhile has been trying badminton.

Family court: Kiefer (left) and Bong Ravena

"I'm really a stage father," Bong admits, grinning. "During the game we have codes. After the game, we have a briefing. I used to tell Kiefer what went wrong. But I learned that it's also not a good approach to point out the negative right away. So I reversed it. I give him all the positives first, all praises, all the good things he did. Then I tell him what he needs to work on."

Like any parent, Bong has his occasional concerns on his son's potentially bright basketball future. "Worry *ko lang baka magsawa siya* (I'm worried that he might get fed up). He started at an early age. Now he's already playing with the big guys. I'm also concerned about him getting injuries. But I'm still here, I can still guide him."

And going by Kiefer's clutch-shooting ways and focused on-court instinct, the Ravenas may indeed prove that basketball success can be sweeter the second time around.

"I know it will be hard," says Kiefer. "But my dad says never walk away from a challenge. I just have to find a way to turn those challenges around." •

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Monday, October 8, 2007 ★★★ 11 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 302 P18

SPORTS / A33

La Salle Archers sweep UE Warriors for UAAP crown

MORE STORIES on Pacquiao on Page A19 and in Sports, A33-A40

Why blame media for Senate leak?

By Frank Chavez
Contributor

WHEN ROMULO NERI INVOKED EXECUTIVE privilege, the Senate committees investigating the $329-million contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project awarded to China's ZTE Corp. decided to call for a closed-door session on Sept. 26.

COMMENTARY

WHY BLAME/ A12

Pacquiao whips aging foe

Barrera escapes KO by throwing dirty blow

By Recah Trinidad

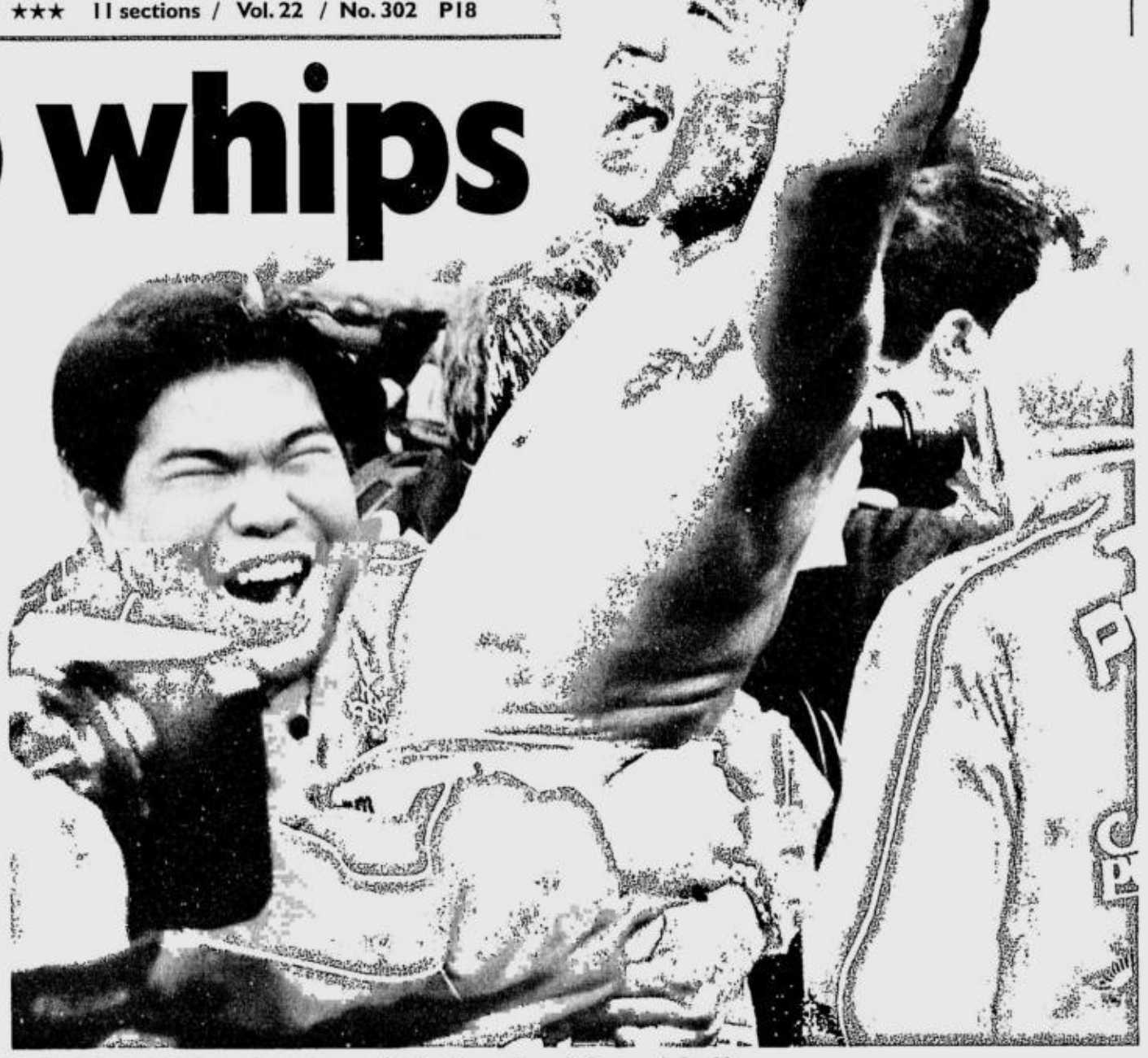
LAS VEGAS—MANNY PACQUIAO, LANDING SPORADIC big shots but failing to follow up, carved out a unanimous decision victory over Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera, who later announced his retirement, at the Mandalay Bay Resort Casino here Saturday night (Sunday morning in Manila).

The wily Mexican, shaken by a thunderclap combination, threw a dirty right cross off a clinch late in the 11th round, a foul blow that derailed the Filipino's attack and visibly saved Barrera from a crushing onslaught.

Referee Tony Weeks called an instant halt to the most furious, suspenseful moment in the 12-round bout and slapped a point deduction against Barrera, who wisely used the break to clear his head and steady himself up.

There were no knockdowns and, al-

PACQUIAO/ A18



MANNY Pacquiao whoops it up after outclassing Marco Antonio Barrera in Las Vegas. AP

Victory relieves nation weary of scandals

HE BROUGHT RELIEF TO A SCANDAL-weary nation—from the President threatened anew with impeachment, to patients hooked to dextrose bottles in a Legazpi City hospital, and to blind masseurs in Quezon City.

Even soldiers and Muslim rebels briefly laid down their guns to follow the fight either on television or on radio.

"Manny! Manny! Manny!" chanted Allan Olan, 30, a blind masseur working at the Philcoa (Philippine Coconut Authority) compound in Quezon City, as the fight between Manny Pacquiao and Marco Antonio Barrera got under way yesterday.

Olan and his fellow blind masseurs monitored the fight on radio. They applauded and shouted with glee throughout, some making the sign of the Cross to pray for a Pacquiao victory.

"The radio commentators were very good in giving graphic descriptions and analysis of what's happening at the moment," said Olan, who brought to work his portable radio so he could listen to the fight.

Listening to the singing by Filipino

VICTORY/ A18

PACQUIAO lands a right to the face of Barrera in the 10th round of their rematch. AP

TV viewers battered by commercials, switch to radio

By Kristine L. Alave

PACMAN'S FISTS WERE SMOKING IN Las Vegas yesterday. So were the tempers of some television viewers in Metro Manila.

So irked were they by the delayed telecast of the fight between Manny Pacquiao and Marco Antonio Barrera that many turned off their sets and followed the fight, instead, on radio.

Viewers particularly expressed frustration over the numerous commercials on the local network that exclusively showed the fight.

TV VIEWERS/ A11

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Magdalena Suhat: Beading a spirited life

BAE MAGDA: The only thing I do well for my people is to serve. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By Lina Sagaral Reyes
Contributor

(First of two parts)

(Editor's note: On Indigenous People's Day, or Columbus Day, marked today, the INQUIRER begins a two-part series that attempts to portray the struggles of women among the Philippines' minority groups to go back to their cultures after being uprooted by conflicts.)

SPECIAL REPORT

ARAKAN, NORTH COTABATO—Magdalena Suhat re-

MAGDALENA/ A8

Probe turns into bizarre witch-hunt, cover-up try

By Amando Doronila

THE STYMIED INVESTIGATION of the Senate blue ribbon committee into the $329-million telecommunications deal with China has claimed two casualties—Benjamin Abalos, who resigned as chair of the Commission on Elections, and the contract, which President Macapagal-Arroyo canceled to blunt mounting criticism of the transaction.

ANALYSIS

After 12 hours of grilling in an inquisitorial torture chamber and failing to extract testimony from demoted former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri directly linking the President to the deal, the probe took a bizarre diversionary turn last week when senators started another witch-hunt for witnesses to browbeat.

This time, the witch-hunt by administration allies targeted Senate reporters who wrote stories about a secret (executive) session that followed the hearing on Wednesday.

In the closed-door session, the report said Sen. Joker Ar-

PROBE/ A13

Killing spooks Sibuyan mining

By TJ Burgonio

SIBUYAN ISLAND, ROMBLON—The people here are protective of their island, and it's easy to see why. Most of them live right in the middle of nature—at the foot of lush mountain forests, on green farms, by the sea or near clear streams.

They are so jealously protective of the island, they have filed out of their homes and massed up in the streets a number of times since 1996 to protest incursions into Sibuyan, known as the "Galapagos" of the Philippines.

During the last Ice Age some 10,000 years ago, Sibuyan was already separated from other land masses, allowing plant and animal life on the island to evolve independently.

After decades of quiet, the residents and the clergy are seething over the inroads made by companies to mine resources on the island, no thanks to the provincial government.

Now, they are seething more over Wednesday's killing of an environmentalist, Councilor Armin Marin, by a guard of Sibuyan Nickel Properties Development Corp. (SNPDC) in San Fernando town during a picket by residents.

The mining consortium, which has a nickel exploration project in San Fernando, said its

KILLING/ A18

Burma says 78 more arrested in crackdown

RANGOON—A RELENTLESS crackdown in Burma (Myanmar) on prodemocracy activists showed no sign of easing with the junta announcing on Sunday that 78 more people have been detained in spite of global outrage and new sanctions.

The latest arrests, reported by the state-run New Light of

BURMA SAYS/ A18

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FORECAST: Western Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

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Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Mostly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Mostly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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'Impeach plot may backfire on GMA'

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE ALLEGED PLOT BY SUSPECTED ALLIES OF the Palace to protect President Macapagal-Arroyo from being impeached, at least for a year, might "backfire" on her, both administration and opposition congressmen warned yesterday.

A senior administration lawmaker identified with Speaker Jose de Venecia said that given her reported conflict with the Speaker, the President might actually find herself facing an impeachment court even on the basis of a supposedly weak complaint filed by lawyer Roel Pulido.

The lawmaker said that should De Venecia decide to do so he could easily muster the required 80 signatures to automatically transmit the impeachment complaint to the Senate. He added that it would not be difficult for the Speaker to drag the 24-member minority bloc into the bandwagon.

"Assuming that the President has 140 congressmen on her side and the Speaker has 'only' 100, she's in trouble," the lawmaker told the Inquirer. He asked not to be identified because of the sensitive nature of his position in the majority bloc.

Opposition Rep. Rufus Rodriguez of Cagayan de Oro agreed, but made it clear that the minority bloc was not inclined to support the Pulido complaint at the moment.

"Yes, it can backfire," he said. "But we will not support this very weak impeachment complaint. It has no real intention of impeaching the President. It's simply making a fool out of congressmen."

Pulido surreptitiously filed last Friday an impeachment complaint against the President, citing Ms Arroyo's betrayal of public trust when she purported meet with resigned Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos in China to allegedly discuss the controversial $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

Another ground cited in the complaint was the Senate testimony of Romulo Neri, former socioeconomic and planning secretary, that he had told Ms Arroyo about Abalos' bribe offer to him. Neri said Ms Arroyo had told him not to accept it, but to approve the deal anyway. He had since clammed up.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo gestures as she delivers her arrival statement at the Centennial Terminal upon her arrival from India Saturday night. CHARLIE OLILA/PCPO

It's hopeless, say Palace allies

By Christine O. Avendaño

ADMINISTRATION ALLIES continue to belittle the latest impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"*Walang pag-asa yan. Mababasura lang yan* (That complaint is hopeless. It will just be thrown out)," Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno said yesterday when contacted by the INQUIRER for a reaction to the complaint filed last week by lawyer Roel Pulido.

Romulo Macalintal, the President's election lawyer, said there was "no ground," for impeachment because the fraud-tainted national broadband network (NBN) contract that sparked the complaint has already been canceled.

Besides, Puno said their allies in the House "remain solidly behind (the President)."

Puno did not think the involvement of the Speaker's son, Jose de Venecia III, as the whistleblower in the $329 million NBN deal would change the alignment of forces in the House.

There may be some "verbal skirmishes" between the leaders of the two parties in the administration coalition, acknowledged Puno, but added that "if you look at the member-allies, Kampi is very close with Lakas."

De Venecia, who heads the Lakas ruling party, won his fifth term as Speaker after a bitter fight with Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia, who was backed by Kampi chair Luis Villafuerte, the representative from Camarines Sur.

President Arroyo's son Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo is a member of Lakas. Another son, Rep. Dato Arroyo, is a member of Kampi.

WHAT'S INSIDE

SENATE to continue NBN probe /A3

GSIS, SSS urged to review plans to invest overseas /A4

What's the motive of Edgar San Luis?

By Christian V. Esguerra

WHO IS REP. EDGAR SAN LUIS and why does he want President Macapagal-Arroyo impeached?

The neophyte lawmaker from Laguna yesterday swore he wasn't acting on behalf of Malacañang in endorsing the supposedly weak impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Roel Pulido.

"I did it on my own because I wanted to know the truth," he told the INQUIRER, referring to the $329-million national broadband network (NBN) scandal, the backdrop of the Pulido complaint.

Pulido cited as one ground Ms Arroyo's purported meeting in China with Benjamin Abalos Sr., then the Commission on Elections chair, to discuss the NBN project. Abalos was later accused of brokering the deal in favor of China's ZTE Corp.

Pulido's complaint was also based on Jose "Joey" de Venecia III's Senate testimony claiming that the President's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, had told him to "back off" the project.

San Luis, one of the relatively quiet members of the 14th Congress, said he simply wanted to know the truth about the allegations and give Ms Arroyo her day in court.

"I'm opening the door for truth and justice," he said. "If people are at fault, let them face the proper forum and be punished in the end."

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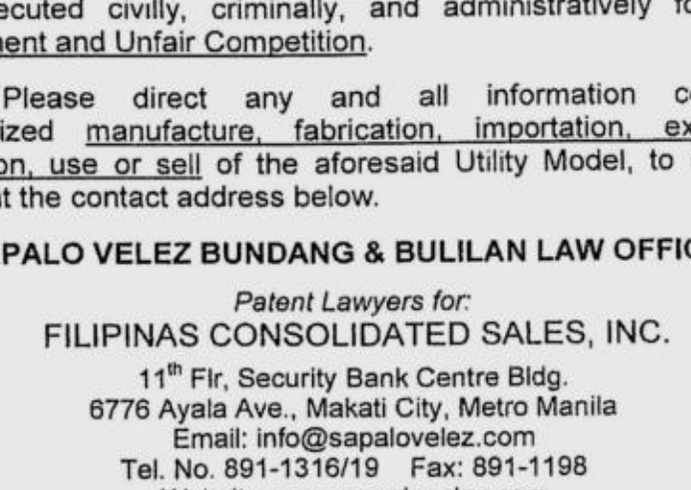

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Senate bent on continuing NBN probe

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

SOME SENATORS ARE DETERmined to continue their probe of the $329-million National Broadband Network deal despite a suspicious impeachment complaint filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo in the House of Representatives.

"It's a necessary step toward stronger laws for the protection of taxpayers' money. Nothing has changed nor has our commitment to look into the ZTE broadband deal weakened," said Sen. Mar Roxas in a text message to the INQUIRER.

For his part, Sen. Panfilo Lacson called the impeachment case filed by lawyer Roel Pulido with the Office of the House Secretary General against Ms Arroyo "a sham."

"It's nothing but an immunization shot to at least keep her safe in office for one year," Lacson said.

Sen. Francis Escudero said "the impeachment case might be used by the President to pre-empt the probe and as an additional reason not to answer questions pertaining to her putative involvement."

For Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. "a genuine Arroyo impeachment will necessarily include her dirtied ZTE finger as one article."

After getting criticisms from fellow senators for allegedly killing the momentum on the ZTE-NBN probe, a beleaguered Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, chair of the Blue Ribbon, announced on Friday that the next hearing would be held on Oct. 25.

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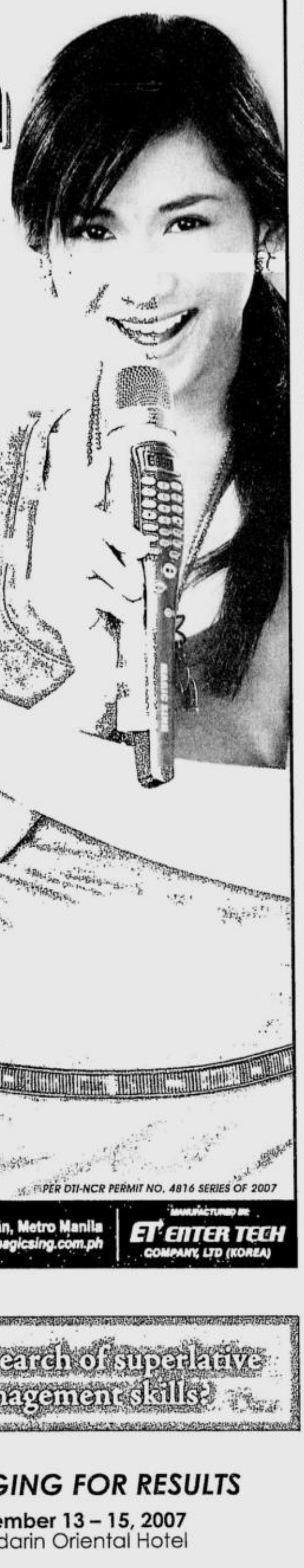

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GSIS, SSS urged to review plans to invest abroad

By Gil Cabacungan and Margaux C. Ortiz

SEN. LOREN LEGARDA IS urging the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System to reassess their plans to funnel P63 billion of their members' money overseas since the peso is expected to further strengthen in the next two years.

Legarda, chair of the Senate economic affairs committee, said: "We recognize that the GSIS and SSS may consider this a good time to start investing overseas, both as a diversification strategy and to further enhance returns for the ultimate benefit of pensioners and members. But then again, some analysts see the peso appreciating by another 50 percent over the next 24 months—to P30 to a dollar. So two years from now might be a better time to accumulate dollar-based holdings," said Legarda, who is set to file a resolution looking into the GSIS and SSS overseas investment foray.

Legarda cited investment analysts' forecasts, such as BNP Paribas, which predicted the peso going to 30 to a dollar by the end of 2009.

A stronger peso would negate any gains made by the GSIS and SSS in their overseas investments because their dollar investments would be converted into fewer pesos, she said.

"We have to keep in mind that any GSIS and SSS investments overseas will eventually have to be converted back to pesos, because the money is meant to pay for future benefit obligations to members and pensioners," Legarda added.

She said the GSIS and SSS should hold on to their investments till the peso has gained full strength that would allow them to buy more dollars for fewer pesos.

The GSIS had previously announced its planned $1-billion global investment program, while the SSS said it would pursue a similar plan worth $416 million.

Meanwhile, a labor group has repeated its call for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to dump their US dollars and save in pesos, warning "that the greenback would likely fall to as low as P40 by year's end, should US interest rates drop some more."

"We are strongly urging our OFWs and their families here to protect the value of their savings by investing in pesos and avoiding the dollar, in view of the increased probability that lower US interest rates will soon trigger a bigger flight out of the [US] currency," Trade Union Congress of the Philippines spokesperson Alex Aguilar said in a statement.

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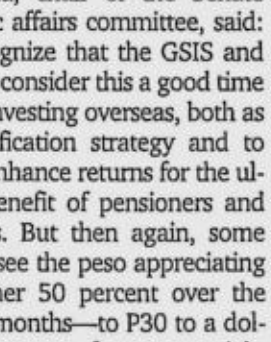

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US Embassy closed today

THE UNITED STATES Embassy in Manila will be closed today in observance of Columbus Day, the embassy said in a statement.

The one-day break is to commemorate the regular US holiday, which marks the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus in 1492. The holiday is observed every second Monday of October.

Visa and consular services will resume on Tuesday. *Tarra Quismundo*

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Palace seeks help of telecom firms

By Christine O. Avendaño

WITH THE NAtional broadband network project scrapped for the moment, Malacañang is seeking the help of private telecommunication firms on how the government can bring down the cost of its telecom use.

President Macapagal-Arroyo on Saturday said that she asked anew Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza to talk with private telecom firms.

The government spends P4 billion a year for its telecom needs.

"We are disappointed that with the broadband [deal] not being continued, telecom savings of P3 billion a year from broadband may not be forthcoming," the President said on Saturday after her five-day visit to China and India.

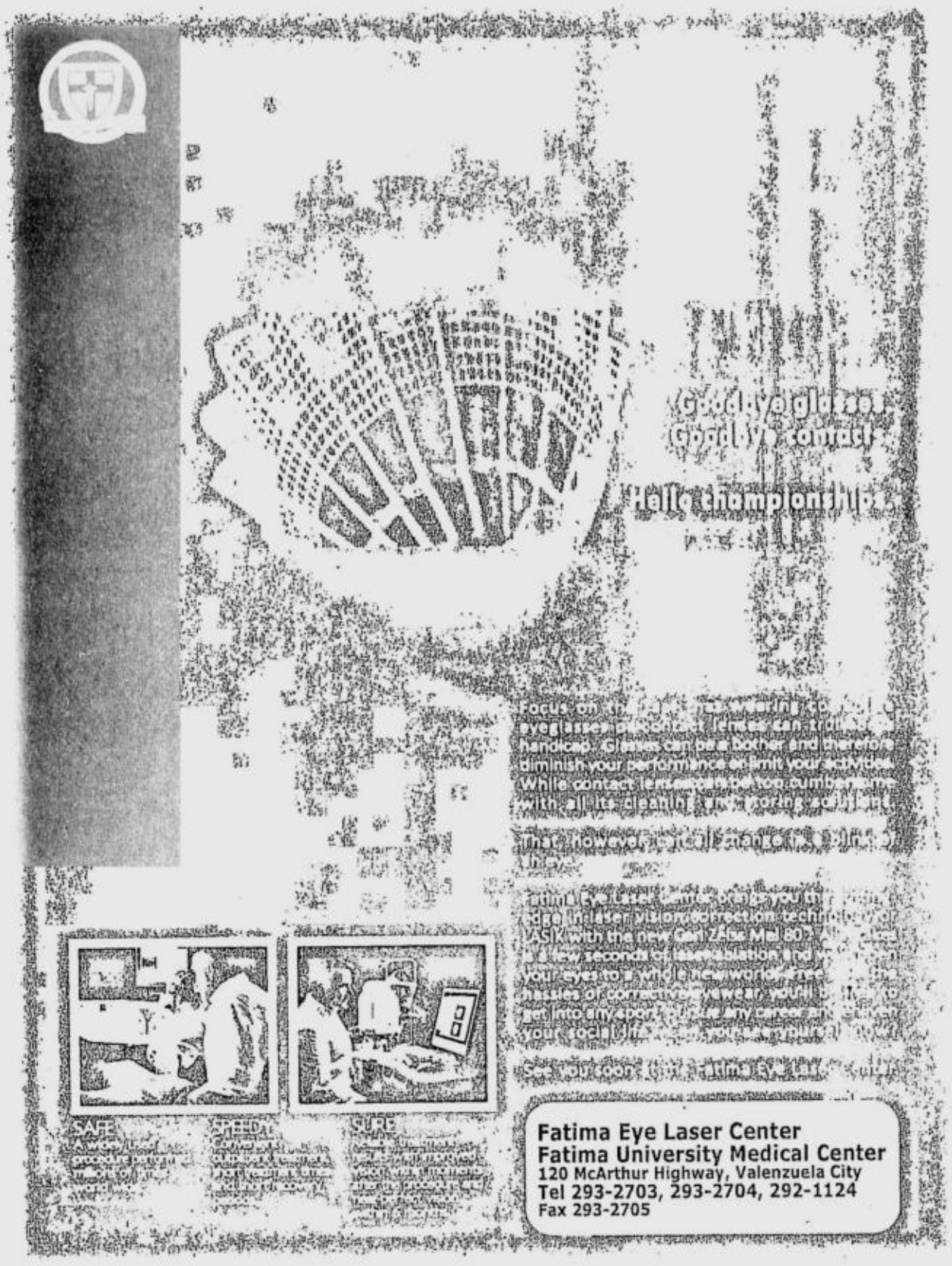
Ms Arroyo was referring to her order to cancel the NBN project with China's ZTE Corp. because of allegations of bribery and overpricing.

"We reiterate our instruction to Sec. Leandro Mendoza to discuss with private telecommunication companies how government can cut its phone, fax and online expenses, so we can spend more on programs and projects," the President said.

"And once again we urge the private sector to fill the gaps in telecommunication facilities and services, especially in depressed areas. Whether government or business, we must invest in digital infrastructure to link the entire country all the way to the poorest villages," she said.

And despite the controversy which had resulted in a new impeachment complaint against her, Ms Arroyo said the country was able to "further strengthen our robust ties with China by clarifying recent developments related to the massive Chinese assistance for our infrastructure program."

The China Projects Oversight Panel should begin working out procedures to protect the cyber education project from unnecessary controversy, she added.



Bro. Eddie dares gov't not to suppress truth

By Leila Salaverria and Allison W. Lopez

JESUS IS LORD FOUNDER BRO. EDDIE Villanueva has dared the government to stop suppressing the truth if it has nothing to hide.

Villanueva's statement, made during the celebration of the 29th anniversary of the Christian group yesterday, came shortly after a Cabinet official invoked executive privilege to limit his testimony on the broadband deal before the Senate.

It also came after the President directed the military to work for legislation to ensure that its secrets are kept.

"If the military, the police and the government have nothing to hide from the eyes of God, they should not stop, suppress the revelation of the truth," Villanueva said.

Rep. Joel Villanueva, son of the JIL founder, said the government was "not serious enough" in battling graft and corruption.

"The total budget of the Ombudsman is P5 million, which is only .7 percent of the national budget. *Ganon po tayo ka seryoso, wala pang isang porsyento* (We are not even 1 percent serious)," said the young Villanueva of the Citizens Battle Against Corruption (Cibac) party-list.

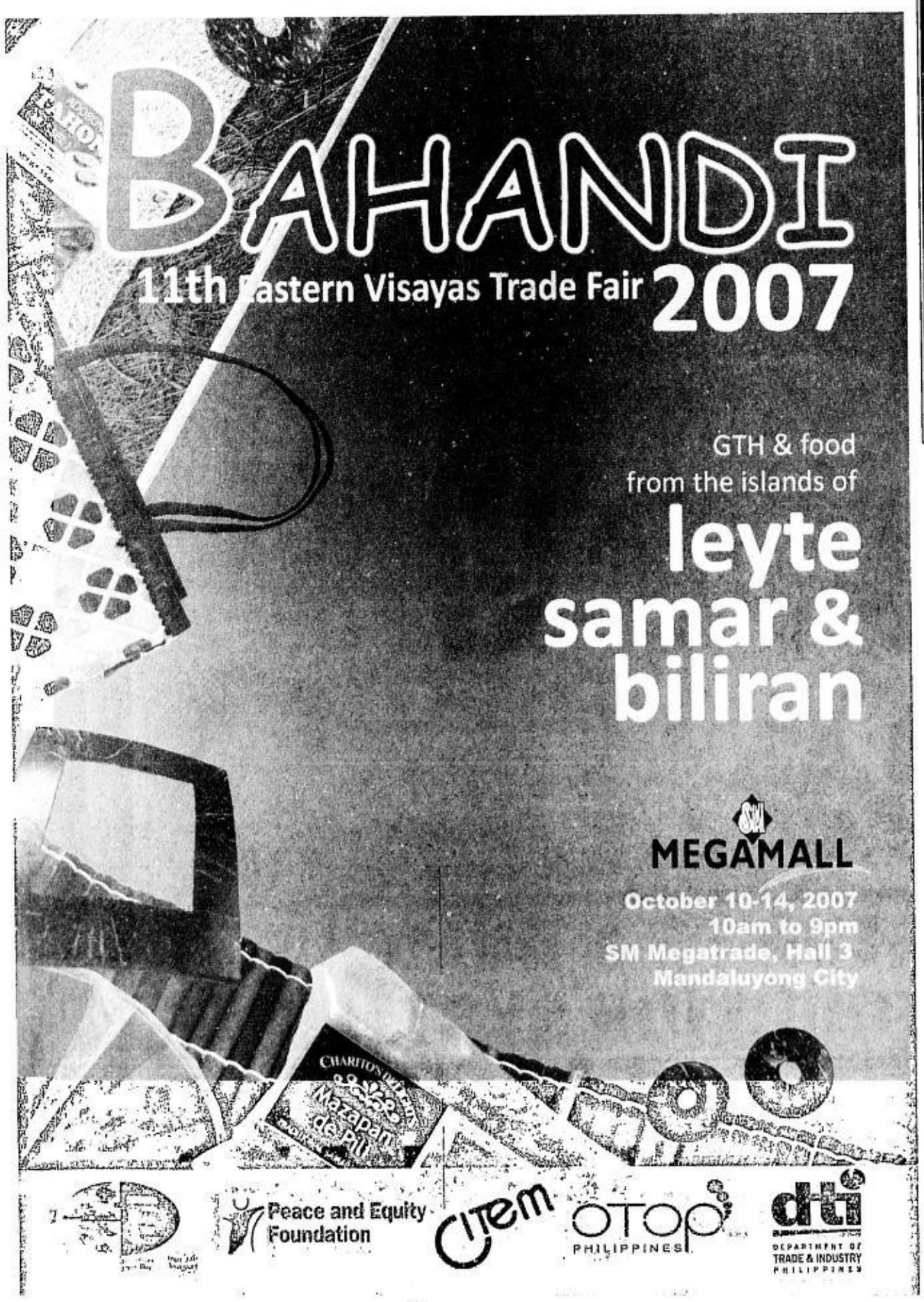
According to police estimates, some 10,000 people attended the celebration at the Quirino Grandstand in Luneta.

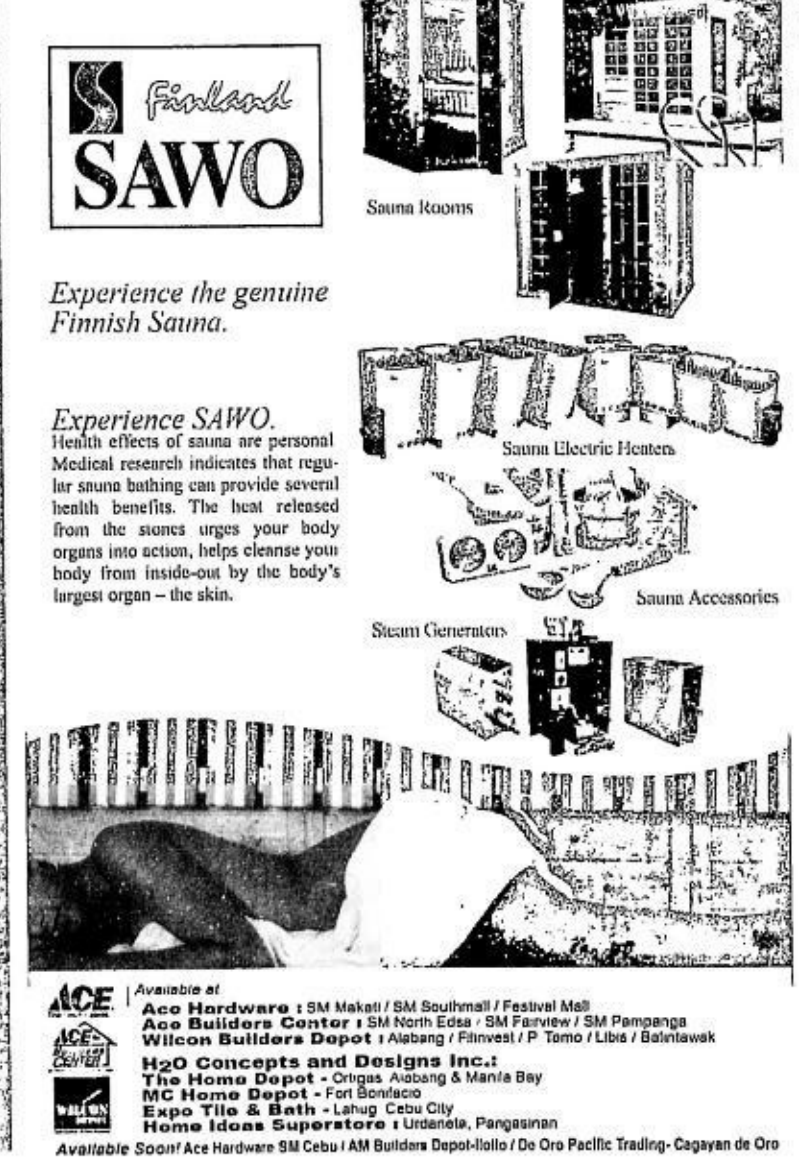
Among those who attended were Bishop of Novaliches Antonio Tobias, Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno and several Sandiganbayan justices.

Tobias said the government insisted that politics and religion be separated because they feared the people's vigilance against graft and corruption.

Puno warned against bribe-taking in connection with the shelved broadband deal with China's ZTE Corp.

"Nasira na ang pagkakaisa ng Kongreso at ng Senado. But I believe *hindi nila* (judiciary) *tayo pababayaan* (This divided the Congress and the Senate. But I believe the judiciary will not fail us)," Puno said after reading the messages of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) president and Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo and Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal.





DA eyes investments from India

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture is finalizing another set of investment agreements with India, Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said on Saturday.

At the sidelines of the 2007 AgriLink/FoodLink Exhibit, Yap said these agreements on biofuel feedstock and livestock were made during President Macapagal Arroyo's recent visit to India.

A joint working committee is set to leave the country before yearend to finalize details of the agreements covering livestock, biofuels, defense and health.

Yap said these agreements would increase investments in the agriculture sector, noting that only about 5.7 percent of total loans by Philippine banks went to agriculture.

According to Yap, there is a need to beef up the country's livestock herd, which numbers only around 30,000 heads. He said the country should have at least 500,000 heads.

Thus, the DA is set to finalize agreements with the Indian government to bring in livestock genetic materials from India such as embryo and semen.

Yap also said India would invest in the propagation of sweet sorghum for bioethanol and jatropha for biodiesel.

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Monday, October 8, 2007
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jon 1:1-2:1-2, 11
Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

A teacher of the Law came and began putting Jesus to the test. And he said, "Master, what shall I do to receive eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What is written in the Scripture? How do you understand it?" The man answered, "It is written: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind. And you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus replied, "What a good answer! Do this and you shall live." The man wanted to keep up appearances, so he replied, "Who is my neighbor?"

Jesus then said, "There was a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him and went off leaving him half-dead.

"It happened that a priest was going along that road and saw the man, but passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite saw the man and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, too, was going that way, and when he came upon the man, he was moved with compassion. He went over to him and treated his wounds with oil and wine and wrapped them with bandages. Then he put him on his own mount and brought him to an inn where he took care of him. The next day he had to set off, but he gave two silver coins to the innkeeper and told him: 'Take care of him and whatever you spend on him, I will repay when I come back.'"

Jesus then asked, "Which of these three, do you think, made himself neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The teacher of the Law answered, "The one who had mercy on him." And Jesus said, "Go then and do the same."

Commentary

This is the story of Jonah, a prophet sent to preach against Nineveh (like Los Angeles, London, Delhi, Beijing, Singapore—places not known for their religious devotion, and certainly not to the God of Israel). And Jonah is reluctant—he boards ship and runs from God. A great storm arises and he knows he has put them all in danger because he has not heeded the Word of God. They find him out and throw him overboard hoping that they will save their own lives. And a large fish swallows Jonah for three days and three nights and then the fish spews him out on the shore. How do we run away from calling others to repentance, reluctant to do so ourselves? Do we spend most of our time trying to run away from our responsibilities in and to the world?

A lawyer asks Jesus what he is supposed to do. Jesus questions him on the law and exhorts, "Do this and live." But the lawyer is running away from the reality of loving his neighbor and wants to know just who that might be. In Israel, one's neighbor was considered to be only their fellow Jews. But Jesus makes it clear that it begins far outside one's kin and nation-with one's enemy and the ones that we despise and fear: the Samaritan, the Muslim, the terrorist—the one we will not name as "Good." We must learn to love our neighbor—everyone-just as they love. And then, as now, we all have much to learn.

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Magdalena Suhat: Beading a spirited life

From page A1

members that she and her family were evacuees long after the clumps of cassava stalks along abandoned paddies for dinorado rice in Arakan, North Cotabato, had been shorn of leaves they now look like forlorn wands.

She remembers that after these cassava leaves and their roots, which were then the very staple of their daily meals, ran out, women and children had to scrounge for wild yams.

She remembers the constant running, fleeing from fighting and from getting caught in the crossfire.

"*Hala bakwit, bakwit, bakwit diri, bakwit na pud, bakwit, bakwit* ... (We go fleeing, fleeing, fleeing here, fleeing again, fleeing, fleeing)," Suhat remembered all these, her voice trailing.

Fleeing was central to Suhat's life, from 1969 through the '70s till the late '80s.

This began in the middle of her life-story and cut off memories of girlhood. It seemed to her that her life as frontierswoman truly began from there.

She had lost her first husband and had inherited from him the leadership in her barangay when she was still 23 years old—only one of the few in the village who finished Grade 5, got married, and learned about motherhood at 14.

She also had two children—one just 4 months old—and a small piece of land to farm.

Now at 53, she has become a sort of an icon for the strong-willed survivors among the internally displaced indigenous peoples of Mindanao.

MAGDALENA Suhat has become an icon of sorts for the strong-willed conflict survivors among the internally displaced indigenous peoples of Mindanao. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Caught in crossfire

The first half of her life encompassed the years when minorities in the resource-rich frontiers of Mindanao were caught in fighting between government forces, communist rebels and Moro separatists.

"Hardly had we built our hut when we have to move again, and sometimes we go back to our old huts and rebuild them and then we have to abandon them and flee again. And we began to ask why, why, why? Why are we invisible to the rest of the world? Does the world outside ever care about us?" Suhat recalled.

She had lost land, time and priceless possessions. She said those treasured heirlooms included well-worn ceremonial clothes stitched by her great-grandmother, made sacred in countless rituals and handed down to the next generation of daughters and granddaughters.

These clothes had to be traded for food, cooking utensils and farm implements. She recalled those attires that represented lost cultures, lost stories, lost lives.

In the last part of the 1990s, Suhat dipped her mind back deep into the ways of her Manobo-Matigsalog tribe.

Drive to reclaim lands

By this time, a measure of peace had been established in her village through militarization. The presence of soldiers and rebels in a protracted truce gave her family and clan time to resettle.

Suhat then immersed herself in campaigns to reclaim ancestral domain. She took the lead in documenting legal claims at the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples.

"We already have the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title and we had it registered with the register of deeds. We are now waiting for the finalization of the grant," she said. The ancestral domain claim covers about 102,000 hectares of communal land within the borders of Arakan town and the mountain barangay of Matigsalog in Davao City.

She was becoming a sage. She had been named as bae, a respected elder, and was inducted into the inner circle of elders, advisers and decision makers.

Domestic affairs recede

As Suhat focused on her work as head of the Mindanao Peoples Caucus, a network of *lumad* (indigenous peoples) for peace building and conflict transformation formed in 2001, her domestic affairs receded to the background. Her family had to contend with grave problems without her.

She had lost a second husband, a third, and a fourth, even a fifth, if you count the single day she got married to a Baptist pastor which almost launched her to the career path of her husband's calling. The next day, somehow she got back her senses, she said, followed by her signature laughter.

She had just presided over an early morning meeting among some leaders and was sitting alone in the yard with a cup of coffee, chewing the last piece of biscuit from a packet.

There is still a piece of story left untold.

Beading herself tight

This time it is about Bae Magda beading herself tight within.

"I was riding on a *habal-habal* (a motorcycle with wooden planks to carry more passengers) back home when a vehicle bumped us from behind. I woke up dazed in the hospital. I was aching and numb all over," she recalled.

"I was 'OK,' the doctor told me. He was surprised that I suffered less than he would have expected from such an accident. I was thrown far from the motorcycle. Later, the owner of the vehicle which hit us came and told us she had to spend a fortune to repair her vehicle, which was a wreck.

There is no such thing as chance. There was a message somewhere in the accident.

"I have forgotten my ancestors and they wanted me to remember," she said. She saw them in a dream. They came to her and when she woke up, she was in the hospital.

Spirits summon

Suhat had been spending time as a representative of her people in conferences and workshops all over Mindanao and elsewhere in the Philippines. She had forgotten the rites of remembrance from where a tribeswoman's power emanates, the loop that keeps the bead-strand together.

The spirits were calling her back. She had strayed away. She must return.

As she waited for her foot to heal, she had time to examine her own life, to get used to being served instead of serving, to heal herself.

She turned to making beadwork. In her wheelchair and later on crutches, she made her fingers busy making traditional Manobo jewelry.

"I was able to make six matching pairs of necklaces and earrings and there were some visitors who were here to see the missionaries in the village and they all bought everything. I was pleased to earn even as I was house-bound."

Reconciliation

She made her own spirit place—a squat ritual hut, palm-roofed and walls made of woven split bamboo—by her house. Inside was a shrine for the spirits with a plate of betel nut and lime, and old coins.

She learned about becoming a *baylan*, ritual and prayer leader and healer. She learned from an elder sister and a cousin about the healing herbs and the words to whisper and chant to ease pain and make things right in the body, to link with the ancestors and other good elements we cannot see.

She prays for a reconciliation of the tensions between domestic and public affairs in her own life—between the wife/mother and the community leader. It's like working out the design in her daily beadwork of chevrons and diamonds, a constant striving for the right colors of bead to fashion an exquisite jewelry of a life.

"I see no other calling than this till my last breath, I think," she said. "This is going to be the only thing I do well for my people. To serve. Until my last breath." *(To be continued tomorrow)*

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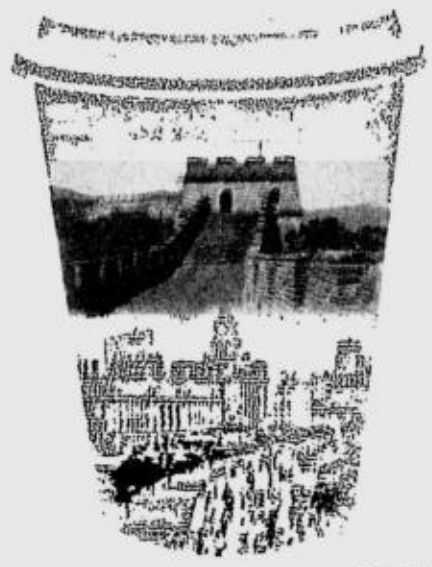

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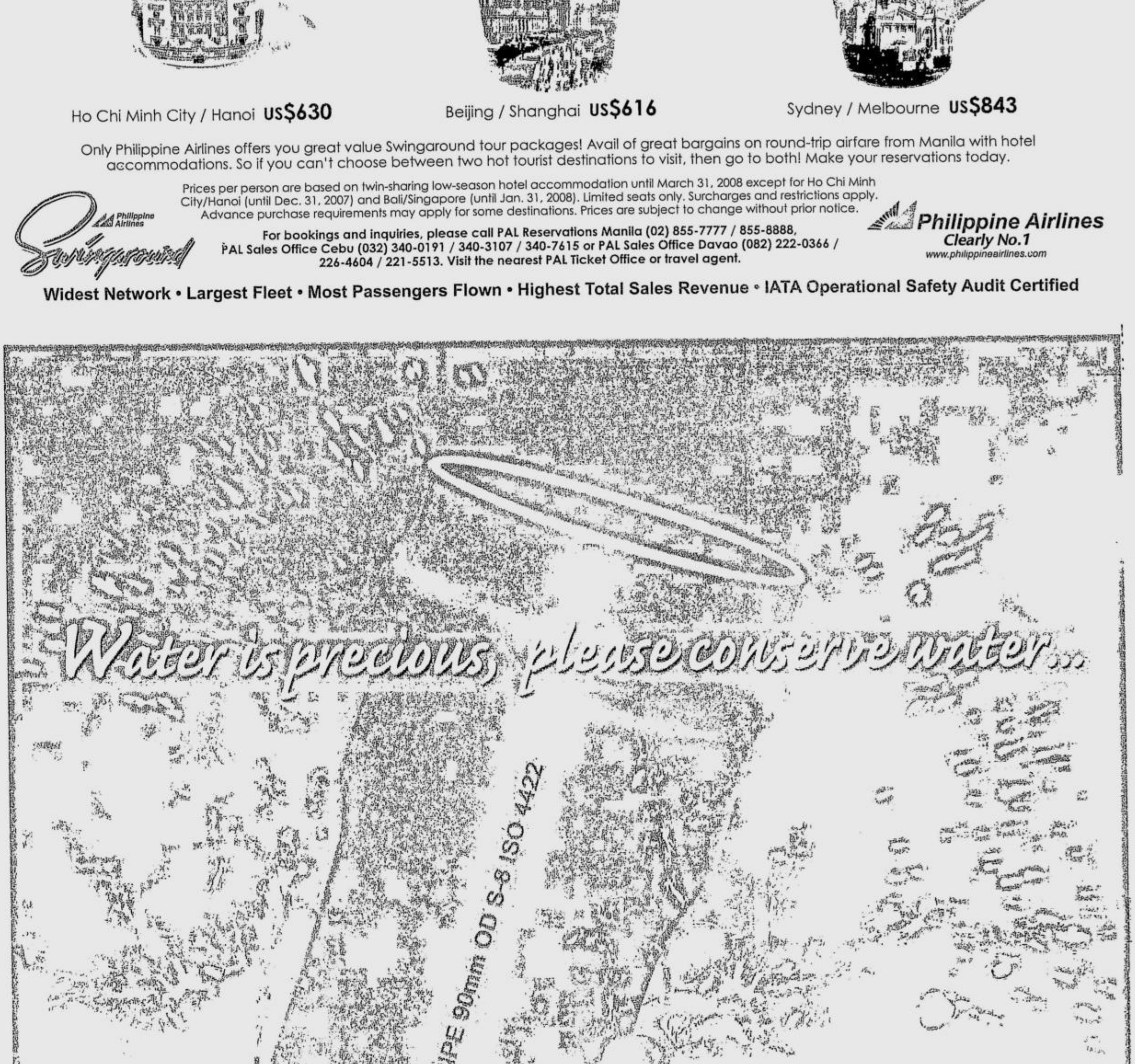

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BANGKOK $171
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HONGKONG	$ 65	BANGKOK	$ 70
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SINGAPORE	$115	TOKYO	$430
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H2-3	Shanghai, Suzhou, Hangzhou 4 - 6 Days	Mon, Wed, Fri
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C1B	Beijing, Shanghai, Guilin 6 - 8 Days	Tues, Fri
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FALL IN LOVE WITH KOREA USD 935 DEP DATE OCT 28 - NOV 01 / OCT 31 - NOV 04 / NOV 01 - 05 [5D/4N]
INCHEON (1NT) MT. SEORAK (1NT) SEOUL (2NTS)
• NAMI ISLAND • MT. SEORAK • HANHWA WATERPIA • EVERLAND • LOTTE WORLD • APPLE PICKING • HAN RIVER
COLOURS OF KOREA USD 1455 DEP DATE OCT 27 - NOV 03 [8D/7N]
BUSAN (1NT) DAEGU (1NT) KWANGJU (1NT) JEJU(2NTS) SEOUL (2NTS)
• LOTTE WORLD • TEDDY BEAR MUSEUM • HERB HILLS & SPA VALLEY • BUSAN TOWER • YONGDUSAN PARK • JEJU FOLKLORE
KOREA WINTER SKI USD 995 DEP DATE NOV 24 - 28 / DEC 19 - 23, 25 - 29, 26 - 30, 27 - 31 [5D/4N]
INCHEON (1NT) VIVALDI (1NT) SUWON (1NT) SEOUL(1NT)
• NAMI ISLAND • EVERLAND • KIMCHI HOUSE • KYUNGBOK PALACE • NATIONAL FOLK MUSEUM • OCEAN WORLD • LOTTE WORLD
SEOUL ANY DAY DEPARTURE 3D/2N FREE AND EASY USD 650

JAPAN LOC 112
BANZAI JAPAN USD 1770 DEP DATE OCT 27 - NOV 03 / NOV 24 - DEC 01 [8D/7N]
NAGOYA (2NTS) GIFU (1NT) TAKAYAMA (1NT) TOKYO (2NTS) NARITA (1NT)
• ISE MIKIMOTO PEARL ISLAND • IMPERIAL PALACE • AKIHABARA • MT. FUJI • TOYOTA AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM • NAGOYA CASTLE • TOKYO TOWER
SCENIC JAPAN USD 1490 DEP DATE OCT 21 - 22 / NOV 26 - DEC 01 [6D/5N]
NARITA (2NTS) TOKYO (3NTS)
• IMPERIAL PALACE • TOKYO TOWER • MT. FUJI • HAKONE • LAKE ASHI • AKIHABARA
JAPAN ESCAPADE USD 1950 DEP DATE OCT 21 - 26 / NOV 21 - 28 / DEC 21 - 26 [8D/7N]
OSAKA (3NTS) KAWAGUCHIKO (1NT) TOKYO (3NTS)
• UNIVERSAL STUDIO • KYOTO CITY TOUR • MT. FUJI • HAKONE LAKE ASHI • SANRIO PUROLAND • TOKYO CITY TOUR • DISNEYLAND
TOKYO ANY DAY DEPARTURE 4D/3N AIRTEL USD 707

ASIA LOC 11 / LOC 119
THE BEST OF SAIGON USD 410 DEP DATE OCT 29 - NOV 1
NI HAO BEIJING USD 628 DEP DATE OCT 27 - 30
ORIENTAL CHINA USD 958 DEP DATE OCT 27 - NOV 1
EXQUISITE TAIPEI USD 718 DEP DATE OCT 27 - 30
FASCINATING SIEM REAP USD 615 ANY DAY DEPARTURE (MIN. 2 PERSON)
HISTORICAL SIEM REAP & SAIGON USD 766 ANY DAY DEPARTURE (MIN. 2 PERSON)
FREE & EASY
SINGAPORE USD 261
HONG KONG USD 271
BANGKOK USD 224
KUALA LUMPUR USD 400
TAIPEI USD 408
JAKARTA USD 376
BALI USD 394

OCEANIA LOC 118
AUSTRALIA USD 1705 DEP DATE OCT 27 - NOV 03
MELBOURNE USD 790
SYDNEY USD 822
AMERICA LOC 117
NEW YORK USD 1254
LAS VEGAS USD 1214
HONOLULU USD 1039

FARES

SEOUL	400	SAIGON	170
PUSAN	440	PHNOM PEHN	485
BANGKOK	128	OSAKA	360
SINGAPORE	128	NAGOYA	490
JAKARTA	128	NARITA	395
HONGKONG	128	GUAM	120
BEIJING	298	HONOLULU	655
SHANGHAI	227	LAX / SFO	883
XIAMEN	218	VANCOUVER	739
TAIPEI	128	SYD / MEL	450
SIEM REAP	485		

TV viewers battered by commercials, switch to radio

From page A1

"Pacquiao is already on his way home to the Philippines and still they haven't shown a single round of the fight," one incensed viewer told the INQUIRER.

Another viewer, Boy San Jose, of Pasig City, said he and his family turned off their set before 11 a.m. and switched to the radio.

Although it would have been better to see the fight on TV, San Jose said the family decided to just listen to the radio so they would know the outcome immediately.

"If you are really itching to know the result, better listen to the radio. It also had a blow-by-blow account," San Jose said in Filipino.

No thrill

He said that had he waited to watch the fight on TV, there would have been "no thrill" as he already knew the result, hours after the final punch of the bout was thrown—thanks to his relatives and neighbors, who listened to the radio.

"There were just too many ads. Next time, let's hope it doesn't happen again," he said.

Jose Salmon Jr., a security guard, said he and his colleagues followed the match on radio. Had he watched it on TV, he would have been late for his afternoon shift, he said.

Need to earn money

"The advertisements were excessively long. The fight was already finished on radio, but the preliminaries were not yet over on TV," Salmon said.

Roland Manguling, a warehouse assistant, said he was told Pacquiao had won 30 minutes before the pre-fight anthems were sung. But he said he still enjoyed watching it on television.

"The commercials kept you hanging in the air but they had to show them so they would also earn money," Manguling said.

With a report from Allison W. Lopez

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• Glazing Macau (3D2N) $ 198
• Bangkok (4D3N)(Via Philippine Airlines) $ 168
• Bangkok + Pattaya(Via Philippine Airlines) $ 198
• Singapore (4D3N) (Via Philippine Airlines) $ 228
• Singapore + Malaysia + Indonesia (4D3N) (Via Philippine Airlines) $ 298
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• Kuala Lumpur + Siem Reap + Phnom Pehn (Nov 15 - 20) $ 588
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Why blame media for Senate leak?

From page A1

Some senators aspired to elicit from Neri answers which he refused to divulge publicly in connection with his conversation with President Macapagal-Arroyo after he informed her of the P200-million bribe offered to him by then Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.

Neri was the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, the agency that evaluates proposed government projects, when Abalos offered the bribe early this year in exchange for his endorsement of the ZTE proposal.

Quoting four sources, a reporter came out with a story in the INQUIRER's Sept. 30 issue that Neri was about to divulge what he knew when Sen. Joker Arroyo allegedly intervened and said Neri should be allowed to avail himself of legal counsel of his choice.

The report said Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. was present at the executive session.

Senator Arroyo resented the report, which he claims is a complete falsehood, but demanded just the same that the matter be investigated—with a threat to impose sanctions on four senators and to cite the INQUIRER reporter Juliet L. Javellana for contempt, unless she reveals her sources.

Questions

Why was Andaya inside the Senate executive session? Who alerted or sponsored him to join the executive session? Who volunteered him to be Neri's counsel? Was he Neri's counsel of choice or was he specifically chosen by a senator?

By allowing Andaya, a Cabinet member and, therefore, part of the executive branch, did the Senate committees not breach their own rules on closed-door sessions?

Was Andaya's presence an executive branch's intrusion into a purely Senate closed-door session? By allowing an official of the executive to attend the session, did the Senate committees not breach their own rules of secrecy?

Was Andaya's presence a subtle but intimidating reminder and warning to Neri that what he would say at the session would immediately reach the President? Would this explain the fever and chills that assailed Neri on that occasion? Did the presence of Andaya help assure the obvious cover-up and suppression of truth?

Republic Act No. 53

The Senate committees cannot compel the INQUIRER or its reporters to reveal the sources of its Sept. 30 story on the executive session. Republic Act No. 53, as amended by RA No. 1477, is very clear:

Section 1. Without prejudice to his liability under the civil and criminal laws, the publisher, editor or duly accredited reporter of any newspaper, magazine or periodical of general circulation cannot be compelled to reveal the source of any news report or information appearing in said publication which was related in confidence to such publisher, editor or reporter, unless the court or a House or committee of Congress finds that such revelation is demanded by the security of the State.

The "security of the State" should not be equated with the interest of the incumbent chief executive or any of her Cabinet members. As a guide, "security of the State" could refer to national security matters, trade secrets and banking transactions, classified law enforcement matters, classified information and diplomatic correspondence, to cite a few. But none of these is touched in Javellana's news story.

It is beyond the power of the Senate committees to punish the INQUIRER or any of its reporters for contempt for refusal to divulge the sources of the news report or information appearing in the publication, which was related in confidence to a reporter.

The senators cannot even ask that the INQUIRER or its reporters waive the protection of RA 53. Such waiver, being obviously contrary to law and public policy, would be null and void.

On the contrary, the secrecy of executive sessions simply emanates from internal rules of the Senate. It could, therefore, be waived. One of the best services senators can render to the nation is when they waive the secrecy of their exclusive club so that the people may be informed—pursuant to their constitutional right of free access to information—of matters of transcendental importance and extreme public interest such as the ZTE broadband deal.

Contempt

The Senate, as an institution, has neither inherent nor expressed contempt power. The power is vested on the Senate merely as an incident to its legislative function. Since its power to enact laws cannot be delegated to its committees, its incidental contempt power is likewise subject to that prohibition. In other words, the Senate as a whole should be convened to vote on and approve a contempt citation.

The power of the Senate to punish someone for contempt emanates from its primary "legislative function," without which the power to declare a person in contempt could not have a separate existence.

The exercise by the Senate, or Congress for that matter, of the awesome power to cite for contempt was questioned in the case of **Arnault v. Nazareno, 87 Phil. 29.** The Supreme Court said that the legislative body indeed possessed contempt power as "incidental" to its law-making power.

Being merely "incidental," the power to punish for contempt is inextricably linked with the primary "legislative power." As such, whatever the Senate cannot do with respect to its legislative power, it also by force of necessity, cannot do to the incidental power to cite for contempt.

The exercise of "legislative power" cannot be delegated to any other body or authority and is exclusively reserved to the Senate and House of Representatives as institutions.

If the Senate cannot delegate the exercise of its legislative power, the conclusion is inevitable that **it cannot, either, delegate its power to punish for contempt, which is merely "incidental" to the primary "legislative power," and without which the former cannot even spring to life.**

The Senate cannot and does not, by the principle of nondelegation, abdicate its power to make laws to a mere Senate committee or committees. Verily, **a mere Senate committee** (much less a group of committees) **cannot by itself make laws.** Although its investigations are indispensable to the lawmaking process, to the study of bills and the inclusion, exclusion, or modification or provisions contained therein, it is ultimately **the Senate as a body** that declares which bills are passed into law or not.

As the Senate cannot delegate its lawmaking powers to a mere committee, it neither can assign its power to punish for contempt.

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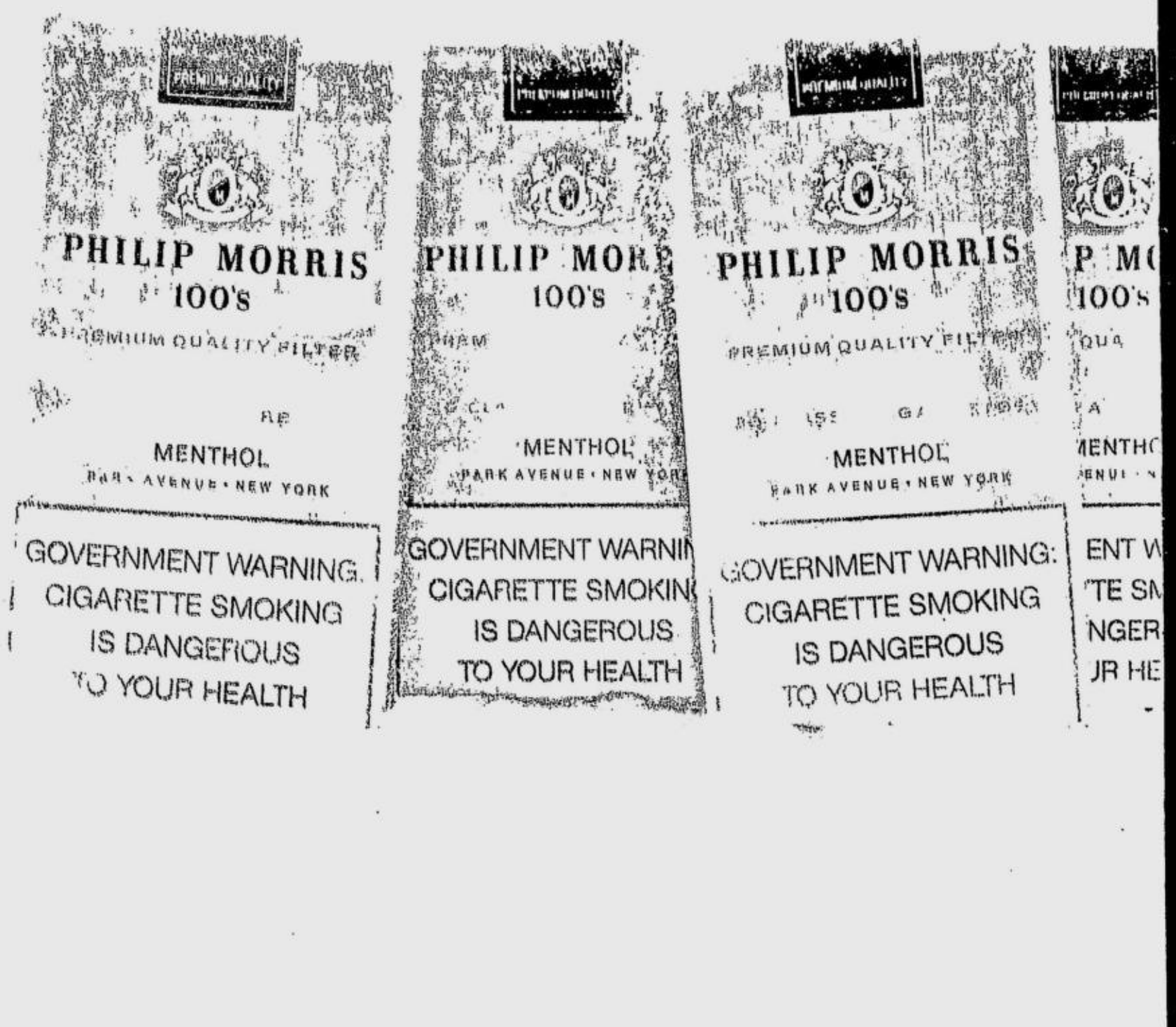

Why blame media for Senate leak?

From page A1

Some senators aspired to elicit from Neri answers which he refused to divulge publicly in connection with his conversation with President Macapagal-Arroyo after he informed her of the P200-million bribe offered to him by then Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.

Neri was the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, the agency that evaluates proposed government projects, when Abalos offered the bribe early this year in exchange for his endorsement of the ZTE proposal.

Quoting four sources, a reporter came out with a story in the INQUIRER's Sept. 30 issue that Neri was about to divulge what he knew when Sen. Joker Arroyo allegedly intervened and said Neri should be allowed to avail himself of legal counsel of his choice.

The report said Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. was present at the executive session.

Senator Arroyo resented the report, which he claims is a complete falsehood, but demanded just the same that the matter be investigated—with a threat to impose sanctions on four senators and to cite the INQUIRER reporter Juliet L. Javellana for contempt, unless she reveals her sources.

Questions

Why was Andaya inside the Senate executive session? Who alerted or sponsored him to join the executive session? Who volunteered him to be Neri's counsel? Was he Neri's counsel of choice or was he specifically chosen by a senator?

By allowing Andaya, a Cabinet member and, therefore, part of the executive branch, did the Senate committees not breach their own rules on closed-door sessions?

Was Andaya's presence an executive branch's intrusion into a purely Senate closed-door session? By allowing an official of the executive to attend the session, did the Senate committees not breach their own rules of secrecy?

Was Andaya's presence a subtle but intimidating reminder and warning to Neri that what he would say at the session would immediately reach the President? Would this explain the fever and chills that assailed Neri on that occasion? Did the presence of Andaya help assure the obvious cover-up and suppression of truth?

Republic Act No. 53

The Senate committees cannot compel the INQUIRER or its reporters to reveal the sources of its Sept. 30 story on the executive session. Republic Act No. 53, as amended by RA No. 1477, is very clear:

Section 1. Without prejudice to his liability under the civil and criminal laws, the publisher, editor or duly accredited reporter of any newspaper, magazine or periodical of general circulation cannot be compelled to reveal the source of any news report or information appearing in said publication which was related in confidence to such publisher, editor or reporter, unless the court or a House or committee of Congress finds that such revelation is demanded by the security of the State.

The "security of the State" should not be equated with the interest of the incumbent chief executive or any of her Cabinet members. As a guide, "security of the State" could refer to national security matters, trade secrets and banking transactions, classified law enforcement matters, classified information and diplomatic correspondence, to cite a few. But none of these is touched in Javellana's news story.

It is beyond the power of the Senate committees to punish the INQUIRER or any of its reporters for contempt for refusal to divulge the sources of the news report or information appearing in the publication, which was related in confidence to a reporter.

The senators cannot even ask that the INQUIRER or its reporters waive the protection of RA 53. Such waiver, being obviously contrary to law and public policy, would be null and void.

On the contrary, the secrecy of executive sessions simply emanates from internal rules of the Senate. It could, therefore, be waived. One of the best services senators can render to the nation is when they waive the secrecy of their exclusive club so that the people may be informed—pursuant to their constitutional right of free access to information—of matters of transcendental importance and extreme public interest such as the ZTE broadband deal.

Contempt

The Senate, as an institution, has neither inherent nor expressed contempt power. The power is vested on the Senate merely as an incident to its legislative function. Since its power to enact laws cannot be delegated to its committees, its incidental contempt power is likewise subject to that prohibition. In other words, the Senate as a whole should be convened to vote on and approve a contempt citation.

The power of the Senate to punish someone for contempt emanates from its primary "legislative function," without which the power to declare a person in contempt could not have a separate existence.

The exercise by the Senate, or Congress for that matter, of the awesome power to cite for contempt was questioned in the case of **Arnault v. Nazareno, 87 Phil. 29.** The Supreme Court said that the legislative body indeed possessed contempt power as "incidental" to its law-making power.

Being merely "incidental," the power to punish for contempt is inextricably linked with the primary "legislative power." As such, whatever the Senate cannot do with respect to its legislative power, it also by force of necessity, cannot do to the incidental power to cite for contempt.

The exercise of "legislative power" cannot be delegated to any other body or authority and is exclusively reserved to the Senate and House of Representatives as institutions.

If the Senate cannot delegate the exercise of its legislative power, the conclusion is inevitable that **it cannot, either, delegate its power to punish for contempt, which is merely "incidental" to the primary "legislative power," and without which the former cannot even spring to life.**

The Senate cannot and does not, by the principle of nondelegation, abdicate its power to make laws to a mere Senate committee or committees. Verily, **a mere Senate committee** (much less a group of committees) **cannot by itself make laws.** Although its investigations are indispensable to the lawmaking process, to the study of bills and the inclusion, exclusion, or modification or provisions contained therein, it is ultimately **the Senate as a body** that declares which bills are passed into law or not.

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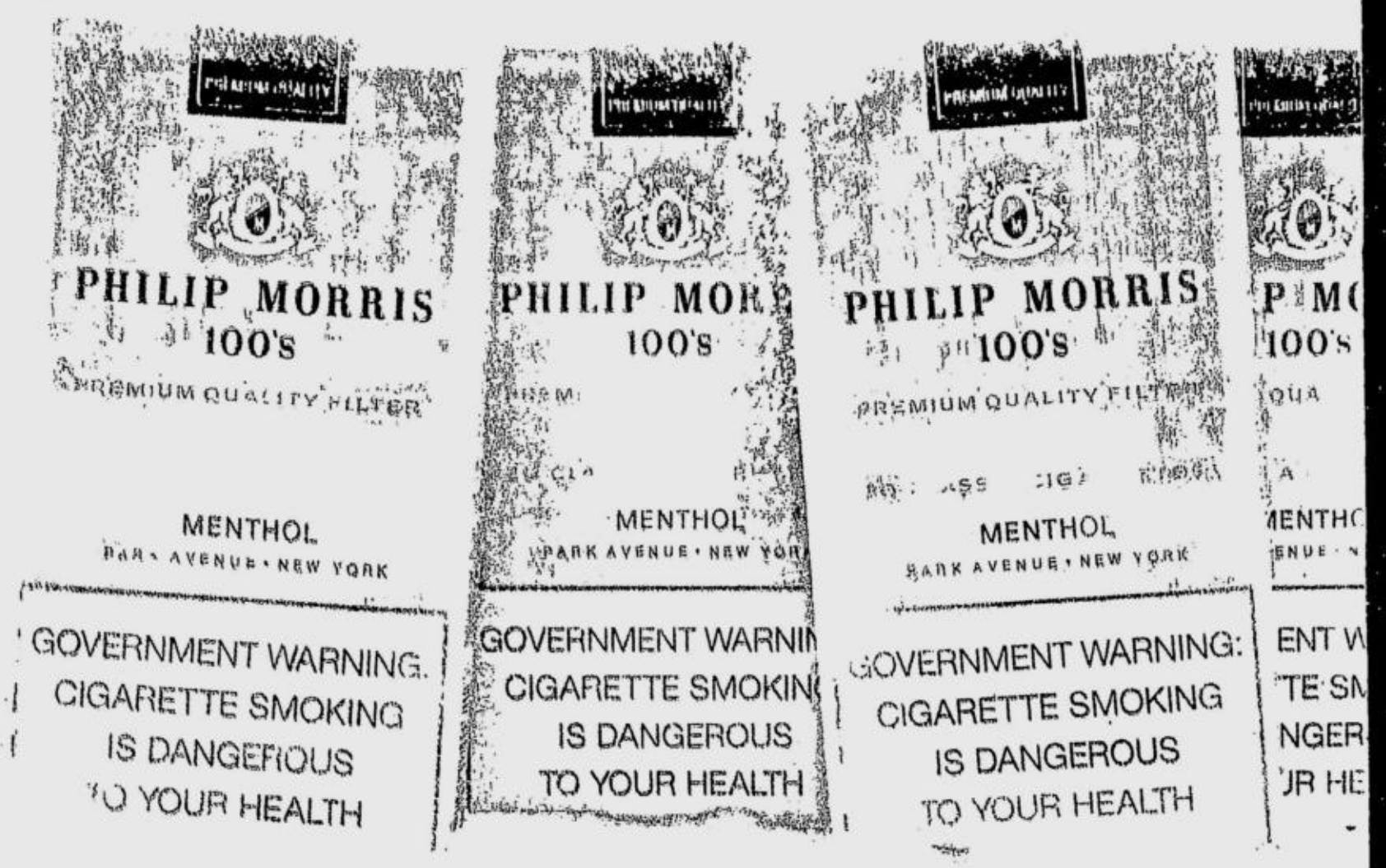

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Gagging senators

Supportive of the principle is the concurring opinion rendered in the same case, as follows:

"In our opinion our Constitution, while the Legislature may function through a committee, and, because of the refusal of any person to answer proper inquiries before the committee, the matter may be reported to the house appointing the committee for its actions, and said house of the Legislature may by appropriate proceedings adjudge such person in contempt, and he be thereafter imprisoned for the time specified by the Constitution for such contempt, **the committee itself has no such power because of the forbiddance of the Constitution.**" (emphasis supplied).

It is best for the Senate committees investigating the ZTE broadband deal to limit their investigation, on an alleged leak on the closed-door meeting, to the four suspects among them.

Should their investigation yield positive results, they should impose sanctions on the "guilty" senators. The public would not really care. But leave media out of it. Media simply report news and information gathered by their enterprising reporters. Why blame them if some senators are motor-mouths?

Since senators want to maintain **omerta**, they themselves should know how and when to zip up their traps. Announcing that the INQUIRER and its reporter would be investigated certainly sends an **intimidating and stifling effect on press freedom.** This definitely sends us back to the days of the dictatorship. Senators should not bully media for any leak of information from their secret session. Senators must learn how to take a leak.

The author is a former solicitor general.

Probe turns into bizarre witch-hunt, cover-up try

From page A1

royo intervened [with a motion] to allow Neri to avail himself of counsel when he was on the verge of revealing what he knew of the alleged lobbying and bribery attempts in the deal with China's ZTE Corp.

Neri had told a friend before the session that what he knew could "possibly" lead to the President's "downfall."

Senator Arroyo's intervention cleared the way for the entry into the executive session of Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya as Neri's counsel.

INQUIRER reporter Juliet Labog-Javellana wrote that some senators objected to Andaya's presence because he is a Cabinet member. Her story, based on information from four sources, said Neri appeared to have been experiencing chills. One source said Andaya told the senators not to press Neri to talk because he was sick.

Another source was quoted as saying, "It's hard to predict what he (Neri) was going to say, but he was about to talk. I think it was the presence of Nonoy (Andaya) that stopped him."

Rule on sources

The reporter followed the rule that in writing stories of a confidential nature and without attribution to sources, it should be confirmed by at least two sources.

Senator Arroyo denied he had intervened, but refused to talk about it "because we have an agreement that nothing discussed in the executive session will come out."

The session did not last more than 30 minutes, according to the story which quoted a disappointed source that "there was no bombshell."

It was in contrast to the earlier grilling in which Neri invoked executive privilege to decline answering questions involving "confidential or classified information" between the President and her Cabinet, as defined by Executive Order No. 464.

With this shield, Neri evaded disclosure of details shedding light on testimony he had given at the earlier open public committee hearing that Abalos offered him P200 million to endorse the broadband project. He had said he had informed the President of the bribe and she had told him to reject it but to approve the deal.

Stonewall

The President on Friday confirmed Neri had informed her of the bribe offer, but she backed Neri on the issue of executive privilege and said she would invoke it to bar Cabinet members from revealing confidential communications, including those relating to the broadband deal.

Ms Arroyo has stonewalled behind Executive Order 464, hardening the impasse at the Senate investigation. But directly relevant to the press is the issue that emerged from the leaks in Senator Arroyo's reported intervention to shield Neri in the Senate's executive session, in which Neri absolutely said nothing.

The newspaper story provoked Senator Arroyo to deliver a privilege speech asking the Senate to investigate the INQUIRER for publishing the story based on leaked information and threatening to hold the reporter in contempt of the Senate.

In the interpellation, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile suggested repealing or amending Republic Act No. 53, the so-called Sotto Law, that protects journalists from being compelled to reveal their confidential sources of news involving public interest.

Overtaken by events

Enrile has called for the termination of the Senate investigation following the President's cancellation of the contract, saying it had become "moot."

Senator Arroyo has said the inquiry has been "overtaken by events."

The position of the two administration allies collides with the opinion of other senators, including Senate President Manuel Villar and Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel, who want the inquiry to continue to determine those responsible for the contract.

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, chair of the blue ribbon committee, is determined to resume the inquiry on Oct. 25, after the congressional recess. "We need to give the public a clear and accurate picture of what really took place," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan also insisted on continuing the inquiry, saying that although the deal had been aborted, "we need to shed light on who nearly got away with this anomalous transaction."

Cover-up

When the inquiry resumes, the Senate will find itself deeply divided on the issue, with no witness to provide it with the "smoking gun" to pin down the President.

But the resolution to hold reporters in contempt if they did not reveal their sources inside the executive session who leaked the story of Neri's appearance is a live issue.

Senator Arroyo said he would pursue his ethics complaints against certain senators who leaked the details of the closed-door session. He does not need a battle with the press over an issue he cannot win—the right of the public to know.

It is so unnecessary. It is so unlike him to be on the side of a cover-up. It's not worth covering up for the administration, especially on the involvement of the President's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

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Without nukes

WHEN THE LEADERS OF SOUTH KOREA AND North Korea parleyed at the summit last week, for only the second time in their history, the international community watched the highly ritualized ceremonies with one pressing question in mind: Will the dialogue accelerate the de-nuclearization of the Korean peninsula?

EDITORIAL

Pyongyang's consuming effort to turn itself into a nuclear power, even at the cost of starving its population, is a source of instability not only for Seoul, which hosts one of the world's most technology-savvy economies, and not only for Tokyo, which leads the world's second-largest economy, but for the rest of the region. With less than half a year left in his term, South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun may have wanted to secure a commitment to speed up the disabling of North Korean nuclear facilities from the "Dear Leader" himself, Kim Jong-il.

In this light, the official word from the summit was somewhat disappointing: The two Koreas issued a joint declaration calling for the "Development of Relations Between the South and the North and Peaceful Prosperity," but the declaration did not refer to de-nuclearization. It merely committed both countries to "make joint efforts" to implement previous agreements reached during the so-called Six Party talks.

The summit came on the heels of a breakthrough round of the Six-Party talks held in Beijing in late September, where North Korea agreed to "disable all existing nuclear facilities," with the Yongbyon plant scheduled for disabling by the end of the year.

Also, and as pointed out by Pacific affairs analyst Ralph Cossa: "Of equal importance (but largely overlooked in reporting on the implementation plan), the North 'reaffirmed its commitment not to transfer nuclear materials, technology, or know-how'" in the latest Six-Party agreement.

Perhaps Roh thought the timing of the summit, so soon after the agreement on what Six-Party negotiators call "Second Phase Actions for the Implementation of the Joint Statement," would give the North Korean dictator the dramatic opportunity to claim credit for the breakthrough. Well, Kim must have felt he had gone far enough, and stopped short of using unmistakable de-nuclearization language in the declaration.

And yet the two leaders' joint declaration does represent an advance. Technically still at war, the two Koreas now commit to replace their five-decade-old armistice with a permanent peace pact.

At the same time, the somewhat tepid language to "make joint efforts" to implement the agreements of the Six-Party talks does commit Kim himself, for the first time, to the de-nuclearization program the international community demands.

To be sure, the joint declaration is maddeningly vague on specific commitments expected of North Korea. And it leaves everyone guessing whether the United States—one of the six parties in the talks, the others being China, Russia, Japan and of course the two Koreas—will indeed strike Pyongyang off its list of state sponsors of terrorism.

In Beijing, the head of the North Korean delegation revealed that the United States promised to remove North Korea from the list by the end of the year. Washington, understandably, has been diplomatically vague about the timing, saying the action depended on whether North Korea fulfilled "its commitments on providing a declaration and disabling its nuclear facilities."

The two Koreas have scheduled a ministerial meeting next month; we join the rest of the international community in hoping that further dialogue will help bring an end, perhaps as soon as middle of next year, to the Korean nuclear threat.

With reservations

SINCE ITS INAUGURATION, THE ROH ADMINISTRATION HAS struck a conciliatory tone toward North Korea. It is no wonder that the present joint declaration details South Korea's measures to assist the North economically.

FOREIGN COMMENT

However, if South Korea independently carries out massive economic assistance to North Korea outside the framework of the Six-party talks, it will inevitably delay solutions to North Korea's nuclear problem.

This is a serious point that the next South Korean administration will have to keep firmly in mind. *The Yomiuri Shimbun*

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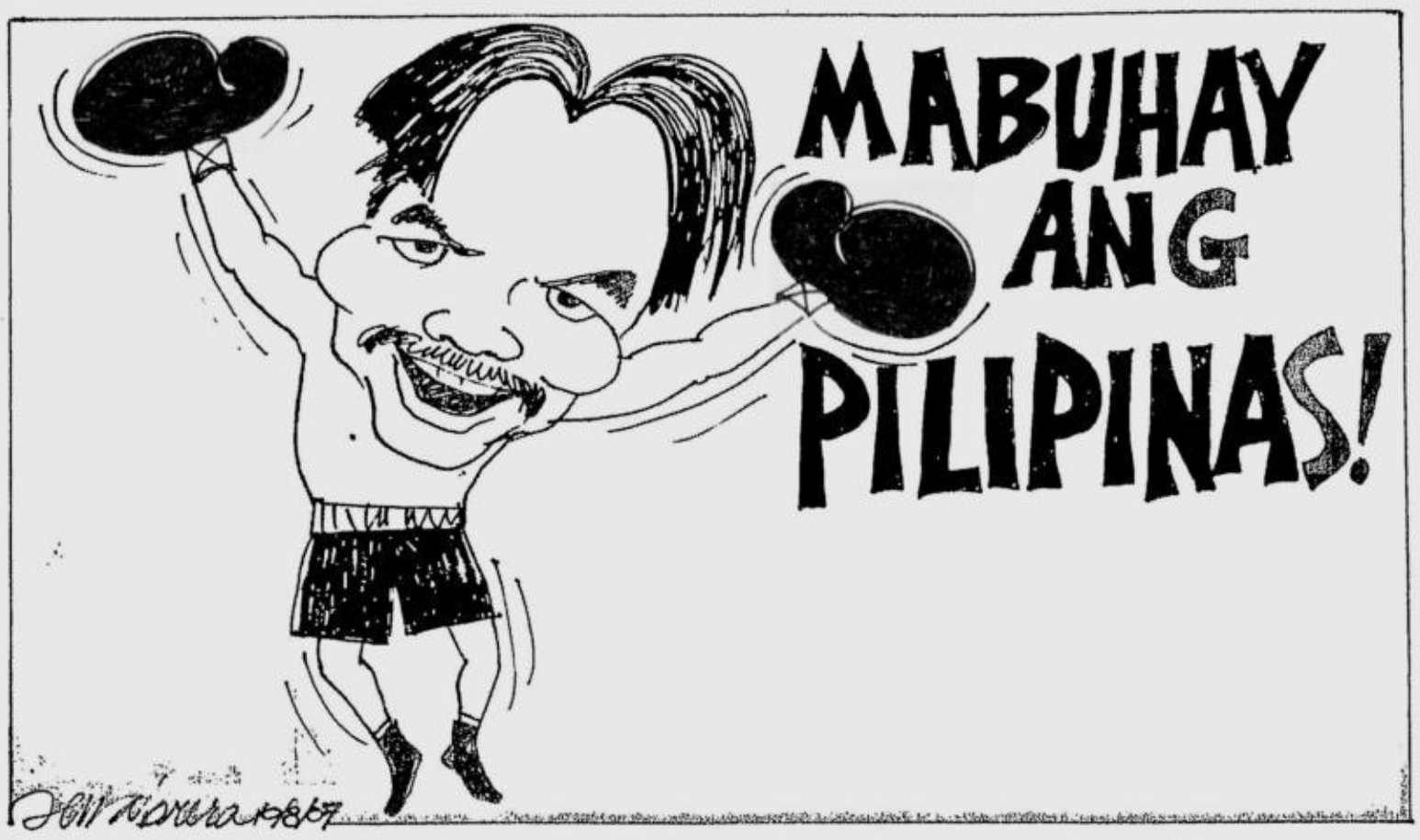


Shenanigans in the corporate world

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HERE'S THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT ON THE controversy over the Philippine Racing Club Inc. (PRCI), which owns the biggest open space in Makati, the Sta. Ana Racetrack.

First, the background. The controversy is between the majority and minority stockholders. The Malaysian-led majority directors purchased, for close to P500 million, a P25-million shell company called JTH Davies Holdings Inc.—which had just jettisoned all its earning business assets. Then the directors tried to swap the title of the P12-billion Sta. Ana racetrack with shares in the P25-million JTH Davies. The minority stockholders protested. The worth of their shares would be drastically reduced by the swap. Imagine, exchanging a P12-billion piece of prime real estate with a shell company worth only P25 million. The minority asked for copies of documents in the purchase and the proposed swap. The Filipinos asked that the major business decisions and the rationale for them be disclosed. The majority directors refused. The Malaysian-led directors, which include the sons of Wincorp's Santiago Cua Sr., a.k.a. Cua Sing Huan, and former defense chief Renato de Villa, responded by calling the Filipinos a "noisy minority."

The minority stockholders went to court to stop the "business decisions" of the majority. The majority went to the Court of Appeals to stop the legal moves by the Filipino minority.

Last week, the Court of Appeals junked the petition for a temporary restraining order and an injunction. There was no basis for whatever it was that the Malaysian-Cua Sing Huan group were asking for. In effect, the Court of Appeals paved the way for the trial court to proceed with hearings of the suit filed by the Filipinos against the Malaysian-led group. This is a victory for reforms in the corporate sector.

But here's a new twist:

I got hold of a copy of the so-called Definitive Information Statement (DIS) which is filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The DIS showed that PRCI's 98-percent ownership of JTH Davies has been reduced to 68 percent. This means someone or a group has bought the 30 percent.

This is alarming. That mysterious buyer wants to partake of the Sta. Ana racetrack pie through the questioned swap by buying into JTH Davies at this time. No wonder share prices of JTH Davies rose despite the ongoing legal action.

The purchase of 30 percent of JTH Davies by this mysterious person/group takes place just when the SEC and the Philippine Stock Exchange are looking into allegations that PRCI has breached the constitutional limit on foreign holdings in local corporations. There was a reported surge in unregistered alien holdings in PRCI. It would be interesting to find out if this has anything to do with the JTH Davies deals.

In a way, the Court of Appeals decision dismissing the Magnum-Cua Sing Huan petition may have averted a "Temasek" syndrome from taking place in the Philippines.

Temasek is a major Singaporean firm and is known as the "investment arm" of the city-state's ruling political party. Temasek is under fire in another Asian country: Thailand. The Thai government is investigating allegations that Temasek may have taken over a major Thai company—the giant Shin Corporation—using fronts and backdoor strategies.

The aborted swap of the Sta. Ana racetrack for the shares in the JTH Davies has prompted many to ask whether a "Temasek" strategy is being done here. The reason is that one of the representatives of Malaysia's Magnum Holdings in the PRCI board is a Malaysian-Chinese-Thai by the name of Datuk Surin Upatkoon, a.k.a. Lau Khin Kun.

This is the very same Surin Upatkoon that Thai authorities are investigating on allegations that he and his firm, Kularb Kaew, fronted for Singapore's Temasek in the controversial takeover of Shin Corp.

* * *

Here is another corporate controversy. Member-consumers and employees of the Batangas II Electric Cooperative (Batelec II) have sued eight of its former directors whose actions they deemed to have been detrimental to its interest.

The eight former directors of Batelec II (the largest electric cooperative in the country that has average monthly sales of P340 million) approved two deals that bled the cooperative.

The first involved a P75-million computerization project with a firm, I-Solv Technologies, which was incorporated on the same day—April 6, 2004—that the said directors approved the contract with the firm. I-Solv Technologies has a paid-up capital of only P62,500, yet it was awarded a P75-million project. As of today, the project remains unfinished although the contractor has already collected P72 million.

The second deal involved the purchase of 10 boom trucks for P610,000 per truck, also approved by the eight former directors. Four companies submitted bids, with a certain Supertrac Motors winning the contract. An independent canvass by the National Electrification Administration (NEA) showed the trucks cost only P320,000 each. It was later determined that several persons were connected with three of the four companies and official records of the SEC showed that three of the firms are related.

The NEA conducted an audit of the two projects. On Oct. 5, 2006, the NEA ruled that the former directors committed gross mismanagement and grave misconduct. It ordered their removal from Batelec II's board.

The former directors filed a case in the Court of Appeals and lost. They then filed a petition with the Supreme Court for the issuance of a status quo ante order against the NEA on Dec. 27, 2006, which was granted in record speed two days later.

Cases of syndicated estafa and falsification of public documents have been filed against the eight.

Desperate House members

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME IT'S HAPPENED. Many years ago, the Encyclopedia Britannica was alleged to have entered the word "Filipina" to mean a domestic or maid. That brought us bristling at the "contumely," as one public official referred to it with proper British disdain. Everyone vied to express his outrage with such erudition as could be found only in, well, an encyclopedia, calling for the Encyclopedia Britannica to apologize posthaste. There was only one problem: The Britannica never did it.

The other "contumely" that had Filipinos, officials and citizens alike, up in arms was Claire Danes saying some nasty things about Manila. This time at least the reports were true. Danes appeared in Vogue after doing "Brokedown Palace" saying Manila was a "ghastly and weird city, (it) smelled of cockroaches, with rats all over, there is no sewage system, and the people do not have anything—no arms, no legs, no eyes." An outcry ensued, Danes' movies were banned in the Philippines, and Danes herself was declared persona non grata by newly elected President Erap. Danes later apologized.

Comes now Teri Hatcher's apparent slight in the form of her character telling a doctor in "Desperate Housewives": "OK, before we go any further, can I check those diplomas? Because I would just like to make sure they are not from some med school in the Philippines."

That has raised the hackles of Filipino officials once again who have vied among themselves to show the most furious indignation. Bienvenido Abante, chair of the House committee on public information, wants the series banned from cable and free TV. Miriam Santiago wants Filipinos to stop watching it to bring it to its knees. I even heard one congressman on TV scoffing at the thought of an American TV show saying something like that when most Americans do not get to college while most Filipinos do.

The last we can safely dismiss, or beg the gentleman from wherever to do us a favor and not dredge up again. Hatcher might retort: "I rest my case." Because if most Americans finish only high school and get to be where they are and most of us finish college and get to be only where we are, there must truly be something wrong with our colleges, never mind med schools.

My own reaction to all this is, well, my first one was to laugh out loud. Hatcher's remark is funny, though the kind that hurts only when you laugh. It's so because like the truly most laughable things on earth, it has much truth in it. Some of our text jokes are worse. But of course there's an unwritten rule that says only Negroes may call each other "niggers." When they do, it's trash talk; when others do, it's just trash. Or when they do, it's banter; when others do, it's suicide.

I do think Hatcher's remark is not without its injurious aspects, and the Filipinos in the US in particular are right to protest it. It doesn't just cast aspersion on—or worse doubts, which affect employment opportunities of—Filipino doctors, it does so on Filipino professionals generally. What applies to the diplomas of Filipino doctors applies as well to the diplomas of Filipino engineers, accountants and lawyers. Left unprotested, a single line like that in a hugely popular TV series can do more harm by the incalculable power of suggestion than whole reams or airtime of diatribe in a newspaper or talk show.

Having said that, I must also say that I find the violent reaction by our public officials in particular even more hilarious—and embarrassing—than the original offense.

At the very least, I don't know that the fact isn't more insulting than the fiction, the reality isn't more insulting than the illusion. At least Hatcher's quip proposes that Filipinos who graduate from Philippine medical schools get to work in the US as doctors. As we know very well, that isn't true at all, not today, not anymore. As poignantly dramatized by the case of Elmer Jacinto who topped the medical board exams, Filipino doctors get to work only as nurses in the US. Indeed, as tragically dramatized still by Jacinto, they get to end up with legal hassles for contesting their contracts there.

Just as well, I don't know that we can't do with some serious self-examination and look at the quality not just of our education but our lives today. I myself found Danes' description of Manila tremendously inspired. It's brilliantly surreal: "The people have nothing—no arms, no legs, no eyes." It's almost like Dante talking about one of the circles of hell, to which, if we still have at least the eyes to see it, we now find ourselves in.

There are two ways to treat a messenger's bad news. One is to shoot the messenger and hope the message goes away. Two is to change things so that there won't be any bad news. Japan didn't just do the second, it turned the bad news into good news. Shortly after the War, Americans also had a field day making fun of the label, "Made in Japan." Today, well, Sony owns a great deal of Hollywood. We can either spend our time lodging diplomatic protests in defense of our diplomas or produce brilliant doctors. The choice is ours.

Finally, where in God's name does Abante and Miriam get off bristling about an insult "Desperate Housewives" has inflicted on us when daily they inflict infinitely crueler insults on us in Congress? Between switching off "Desperate Housewives" and switching off Miriam (and "Here Comes Johnny Ponce Enrile"), Filipino viewers won't agonize over their decision. Indeed, between banning "Desperate Housewives" and banning the Sona on grounds of cruel and unusual punishment, why don't we make a plebiscite of that and find out?

Our national honor has been tar· hed by people laughing at our diplomas? That's a little, well, desperate.

The Burma Road goes through Beijing

WORLD VIEW

Jamie F. Metzl

NEW YORK—THREE HARD FACTS SET THE boundaries for the talks United Nations negotiator Ibrahim Gambari undertook as he shuttled between Burma's ruling generals and the detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. First, despite the heroic leadership of the Buddhist clergy and the pro-democracy community, almost 50 years of military misrule and terror tactics have worn down Burma's people, who will likely find it hard to maintain their defiance without obvious splits among the ruling generals or widespread desertions among ordinary soldiers.

Second, Burma's generals know that they face a stark choice: either maintain power or risk imprisonment, exile and possible death. In their eyes, this leaves them with virtually no choice but to hold on to power at all costs.

Finally, as long as China provides political, financial and military support for Burma's rulers, it will be all but impossible for any meaningful change to occur. Until China decides that it has more to gain from a more legitimate government in Burma than it does from the current incompetent military regime, little can happen.

China's decision to block the UN Security Council from condemning the Burmese regime's assault on the Buddhist monks and other peaceful protestors underscores its long-standing political support for the junta. This past January, China, alongside Russia, vetoed a Security Council resolution that condemned Burma's human rights record and called on the government to stop attacks on ethnic minorities, release political prisoners and begin a transition toward national reconciliation and democracy. For years, China has also blocked meaningful sanctions against Burma.

China's economic ties to Burma's rulers are strategically important for both sides. Annual bilateral trade, estimated at $1.1 billion—a huge figure, given Burma's total GDP of $9.6 billion—provides an economic lifeline for the Burmese government. China is also Burma's largest military supplier.

At the same time, the $2-billion oil pipeline that China is seeking to build from Burma's southern coast to China's Yunnan province will allow China to get Middle East oil to its southern provinces more easily and securely. When completed, the pipeline will make China much less susceptible to foreign military pressure in the event of international conflict.

So the stakes in Burma are high for China, as are Chinese fears of about how any future "national reconciliation" government might react to China's record of complicity with the corrupt military rulers.

It should be remembered that America and its allies, faced with strategic fears of a similar type during the Cold War, also supported repugnant and oppressive regimes in places like Zaire, Chile and Indonesia. But America and the West did, at key turning points, realize that times had changed so much that these dictators had outlived their usefulness. Thus, despots like Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines and Chun Doo-hwan in Korea were jettisoned, because the price of supporting their despicable regimes became greater than the benefits.

In today's Internet age, the costs of China's support for Burma's generals are rising fast. Just as in Darfur, where China's perceived support for the Sudanese government translated into harsh criticism and threats to brand the 2008 Olympics the "Genocide Games," China's backing of the Burmese generals, particularly if the death toll rises, could cause similar problems. Indeed, an Olympic boycott will become more likely if scenes of murdered or brutalized Buddhist monks are flashed around the world. Moreover, Burma's public health woes and drug and human trafficking are increasingly being exported to southern China.

Although China has expressed some vague concerns over the crisis to the Burmese government, it has not taken any action that could meaningfully affect the regime's calculations, despite its singularly unique leverage.

To encourage China to take the lead in fostering national reconciliation in Burma, the international community must convince China that pushing for reform and change can be a win-win proposition. The international community must make clear that China's interests would be protected during a transition to a more open society in Burma, and that some version of the oil pipeline project will be supported by any new regime.

Because China has been competing with India for access to Burma's natural resources, India also needs to be actively included in efforts to pressure the Burmese regime, a process that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) might effectively coordinate. In a statement issued on Sept. 27, Asean foreign ministers expressed a surprising degree of condemnation of the crackdown in Burma. They could play an essential leading role in a process including the Burmese parties, China, India, the European Union, Russia and the United States that could devise a roadmap for change in Burma.

Such an international process simply cannot happen without China. The road to change in Burma runs through Beijing.

Project Syndicate/Asia Society

Jamie F. Metzl, who served on President Bill Clinton's National Security Council, is executive vice president of the Asia Society.

Remembering our fallen comrades

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

A WEEK AGO, FOUR MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL WARFARE Group (SWAG) of the Philippine Navy were killed in an encounter with suspected pirates off Basilan. SWAG elements, better known as SEALs (Sea, Air, Land warriors), are considered as among the best-trained and best-equipped combat personnel of the Armed Forces.

Somehow the loss of these highly skilled fighting men reminded me of the disasters that we suffered earlier in the Basilan-Jolo area of operations.

It has been three months since 14 of our Marines were ambushed, beheaded and their bodies mutilated in an encounter with MILF/Abu Sayyaf elements in Albarca, Basilan. This was followed by another ambush, this time of Scout Ranger elements in Jolo. A test mission mounted on an Abu Sayyaf base in Tipo-Tipo, Basilan, also resulted in the death of five officers and 10 enlisted men all belonging to Force Recon Class 13 of the Philippine Marines.

Whatever happened to the AFP offensive aimed at getting the culprits which was launched with much fanfare? Even elements of the Presidential Security Group were thrown into that offensive. Now I realize that the objective of the assault was not an easy task. The terrain in those areas is extremely difficult, the environment is not very friendly and the enemy is as slippery as a snake in the jungle. There are a multitude of reasons that can be advanced for the hardships we face in bringing these criminals to justice—particularly, those who were responsible for beheading and mutilating our Marines. But we must continue to exert our best efforts if only to maintain a semblance of AFP credibility in the eyes of our people. But most important of all, as a sign of respect and remembrance for our fallen comrades.

* * *

Recently, I had coffee with former AFP chief of staff Gen. Generoso Senga. He had come back from a long vacation in the United States and was still on vacation mode, looking well-rested and relaxed.

Our readers will recall that as AFP chief, Senga was in the eye of the storm during the crisis days of February 2006 when Scout Rangers and Marine elements were poised to join civil society elements in demonstrations marking the 20th anniversary of the Edsa Revolution. I had always wanted to get it straight from the horse's mouth, so to speak, as to what really took place during those critical hours when Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Col. Ariel Querubin were having talks with General Senga.

Some of what we discussed was off the record, but he said that when the time was right, he would come out with his official memoirs of those crucial hours so that people would know the truth instead of the speculation that tended to cast some shadow on his role during the emergency.

General Senga calls Marikina home but he also says that he was "born free." When I asked him what he meant, he said that because his parents were poor, he was born in the free ward of the Philippine General Hospital in Manila. And of course, we all know that from the free ward of the PGH, Senga went on to the Philippine Military Academy, graduating with the class of 1972 and eventually ending up in the official residence of the AFP chief of staff in Camp Aguinaldo. Truly in the best Horatio Alger tradition of rags to riches.

* * *

Last week, the class of 1957 of the Philippine Air Force Flying School lost another member from its already depleted ranks with the departure of Ruben J. Dario who passed away in the early morning hours of Thursday, Oct. 4. This was just a little over a month short of our graduation day 50 years ago.

Dario was one of eight aviation cadets who together with nine student officers received their silver wings, symbols of military flying proficiency, from the PAF at Fernando Air Base on 2 December 1957.

The guest of honor was Maj. Gen. John Ackerman, the commander of the US 13th Air Force based at Clark Air Base. Ackerman's career would hit a dead end shortly after when he was reprimanded for misuse of government funds in the excessive redecoration of his quarters at Clark.

A native of Candon, Ilocos Sur and the eldest of nine brothers and sisters, Dario entered the PAF Flying School in 1956 after two years of college work at the Ateneo. He was one of 41 cadets who along with 13 student officers from the PMA made up the original class of 1957. The process of elimination was swift with 28 cadets being washed out early on. Ruben Dario would emerge as the first captain of the Corps of Aviation Cadets during his time. This was the equivalent of brigade commander of the PMA Cadet Corps. Five of the outstanding cadets in flying skills would leave for training at various US Air Force flight training centers and return as fully qualified jet fighter pilots.

Upon graduation, Dario would be assigned as junior aide to the PAF commanding general at that time, Brig. Gen. Pedro Q. Molina. In this position, he was always available to those who sought his assistance in matters dealing with Headquarters PAF. This was a trait which he exhibited in all the different positions he held in or out of the military service. As the pilot for influential and powerful businessmen like Ambassador Eduardo Cojuangco, he helped open doors for people who needed an opportunity to be heard. The ball boys at the Philippine Columbian Club saw him as a generous tennis aficionado whose presence they always welcomed.

At the height of his flying career, Dario married a pretty Bayanihan dancer, Maribel Carag of the prominent Carag family of Cagayan. The marriage eventually broke up. Perhaps, this was the turning point in his life.

Aviators learn to come up with a flight plan when preparing for long journeys with strange destinations. In the course of his flight through life, Ruben may have encountered strong winds and heavy turbulence, causing his craft to drift away from course. Somehow, the bright promise of a rewarding career first indicated by his appointment as first captain of his batch and subsequent fruitful assignments in commercial aviation did not quite materialize. When his health took a turn for the worse, he would spend the rest of his days at the Veterans Memorial Center.

There are lines from the "Pilot's Prayer" that go like this:

"And when it is time for Thy wish
To end our wondrous ways through the stars
Take us to the glory of Thy domain
In the heavens far above
To where our wings failed to fly us
And let us go gallantly, without fear, nor hatred nor misgiving."

The Dean writes 30

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

"HE IS A CONSUMMATE PROFESSOR AND STUdent of law. He died a bachelor and got married only to his profession; he is one of the best legal eagles Davao ever produced," was my response when media friends asked for my reaction to the death of lawyer Hildegardo F. Iñigo. Popularly known as "the Dean" of the Ateneo de Davao Law School, Iñigo succumbed Sept. 27 to a chronic obstructive pulmonary disease at the full age of 65.

(Iñigo, among the first graduates of the Ateneo de Davao Law School, placed 8th in the 1966 bar exams. Immediately after passing the bar, he enlisted as a law professor of the Ateneo de Davao Law School. In 1990, he assumed the position of law school dean, following the death of lawyer Epifanio E. Estrellado, another "bachelor married only to his legal profession" who served as dean for 27 years [1963-1990], one of the longest-serving deans in the history of the Philippine Association of Law Schools.)

Fr. Gus Nazareno, a former student and a fellow law professor who acts as one of the three assistant deans, aptly described the life of the Dean in three words: excellence, service and simplicity.

Mediocrity has no room for the Dean; during his watch, year in and year out, his burning goal was to make Ateneo de Davao Law School one of the best law schools in the country.

"Hilde possesses a brilliant and analytical mind and photographic memory. He can recite codal provisions, laws and jurisprudence with the flick of his fingers. He can quote Shakespeare and the Bible with ease. He can relate historical events vividly that can astound his listeners," said lawyer Cesar Europa, one of his closest friends.

At the time of his death, the Dean was probably one of the few remaining law professors in the country who could single-handedly tackle the whole gamut of Remedial and Criminal Law. "He is a lawyers' dean." It was not surprising then that continuing legal education seminars sponsored by the IBP were always full if the Dean was among the lecturers.

His drive and optimism clearly rubbed off not only on his students but on the entire law school community. He was not envious that his bar record was surpassed by former students. In fact, he was a picture of a very proud father when two of his students, Dexter Lopoz and Rogelio Largo, placed second and fourth, respectively, in the 2000 bar exams.

His passion for teaching law was such that he declined offers for him to be appointed to the judiciary, not only as a trial judge but even as a justice in the appellate court. The Dean subscribed to the truism that to teach is to learn twice over.

Despite his stature as a legal luminary, the Dean chose to live a frugal and simple life. While many lawyers nowadays make the acquisition of a brand new car and a house as their priorities immediately after passing the bar, the Dean would have none of it. But he was very generous to his employees and household companions, Europa said.

Unknown to many, before the Dean became a lawyer, he was one of the most prolific journalists Davao City ever had. He dabbled in journalism while studying law in the 1960s. His journalism days started on the Ateneo campus, where he became the editor in chief of the Ateneo, the official student publication of the Ateneo de Davao University. He was also active in the College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP), now one of the oldest and most progressive campus organizations in the country.

My wife Charina and I had several "gulping sessions" with the Dean, probably because of our shared past as journalists before venturing into the world of legal gobbledygook. Our "gulping sessions" with the Dean almost always ended up discussing front-page issues, from A to Z. One time, over bottles of beer, he scolded me and Charina for "overstaying" in law school; he told us not to make journalism a poor excuse for not becoming lawyers. While he was not very open about his opinions on political issues, I remembered him becoming upset during the attempt of some congressmen to impeach Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

Loyalty, according to Europa, was another of the Dean's virtues. He was loyal to Ateneo; he was loyal to the law school, he was loyal to his deceased mother; he was loyal to his friends and his co-workers. In fact, while already a professor of law he applied to be admitted as a member of the Fraternal Order of St. Thomas More (Tau Mu), which was founded in 1967. His admission as a regular member was aborted but, in 1989, he together with Estrellado were conferred honorary memberships in the Order in recognition of their contribution to the growth of Tau Mu. But the Dean, apparently, was not content with his honorary title; he completed his aborted admission in 2004 and became a full-fledged Tau Mu member, since then bearing the "Scroll No. 678 of a King's Good Servant, But, God's First."

To paraphrase Groucho Marx, all his life in the academe, the Dean possessed the two most engaging powers of a professor: making new laws familiar, and familiar laws new. He had mastered the art of teaching law that he can strip its superfluous trappings without losing its majesty. The Dean is dead; Long live the Dean!

* * *

Comments at kar_laws@yahoo.com or karlos_z23@hotmail.com

Calabasa and the Force

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

A LONG TIME AGO, IN A BARANGAY FAR, FAR away, Kapitan Calabasa entered the library of the Palacio Maldita, and gently coughed to inform Madam that she had a visitor. Madam ignored him, as she was in the middle of a call.

"Hello, Ollieder? Ang fulido talaga ng trabaho mo. The fafer you shubmitted should protect me for another year. Pleashe thank you alsho to Maculitna for endorshing it."

"What? Thish ish not Atty. Laoshnaunano? Who are you? Atty. Fundido? I shee. Thank you, anyway. Sho who wash the endorsher? Shang Kwan? From where? Ah. Yesh, I know the plashe. Where the queshong futi comes from. Thank him for hish endorshement, noh."

Madam slammed down the receiver and glared at Calabasa. "You shee? Thish ish why we need that Shtrong Baranggay Nagging Network or SBNN!"

"Yes, Madam. I am glad Atty. Pundido and Shang Kwan are helping you. By the way ma'am, may I congratulate you for your handling of that situation with Chairman Ayos, 'konting kuskos, ayos!' If I don't say so myself."

Madam threw her communicator at Calabasa. "I am not amushed, noh. Ayosh was usheful and now look what haffened." She frowned, then decided to try to be gracious. "Kap, may 200 ka dito…"

"What??"

"Yesh. 200 ml. Of Lifovitan. It keepsh you going. We musht work hard to maintain our shtrong baranggay."

"Oh."

"Be shilent. I am looking for my three shtoogesh. Where are they?"

"Ah, Tremoulous Nerdly is just throwing up, as usual. Loopy Billabirdie is there, Madam, you're confusing him again with the decorative stone frog. I can't find Lando Menhaoshiao…"

"Yesh. Wait, I heard him cough. Lando? Come out, come out, wherever you are! Ah, I shaw a fotted flant shake. That musht be him. He'sh invishible, you shee. Very usheful. Shometimesh, he's vishible, to shign a document. Then he can dishaffear and shteal it if it needsh revishions."

"Ah, you mean for ETC?"

"Shut uf! Thish ish a crishish! We musht deshtroy Manong Yoda!"

Billabirdie croaked, "Madam, we can say he is perverting the Force. We can tag him as the Invisible Jedi Master manipulating the destruction of the Republic!"

Madam smiled. Then the plant shook to signify Lando Menhaoshiao was saying something: "Pssst, Madam, your ploy to have Pundido file a paper with Shang Kwan's help is brilliant, but with due respect, if Billabirdie exposes Manong as the Invisible Man, I in turn might get exposed."

Madam scowled. "How?"

"Ni hao? Fine…"

"Shut up! We're not talking to ETC. We musht handle thish Manong Yoda."

The voice from the vicinity of the plant continued, "Ah. Ma'am, with Ayos gone, and Nerdly silent, still, if you talk about an invisible man, they might look for real invisible men, and, after all, Manong's always been visible, while so far I am the only one of your people known for his invisibility skills."

"I shee. Sho we musht deshtroy Manong Yoda shome other way… My shonsh want him eliminated."

Suddenly, the doors burst open. A small figure with pointy ears entered. The figure looked at the shocked assemblage and said, "Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering."

"You! Back off!!" Madam screamed.

"Powerful you have become, the dark side I sense in you."

Madam's voice remained steely. "Oh, well, yesh, but you shee, we musht try to find a way to dishipline your wayward shon…"

"Do or do not… there is no try."

"He musht be controlled!"

"Not if anything to say about it I have."

"He'sh deprived me of Ayosh and now he'sh fointing shtraight at me! Thish ish too frightening!"

"Named must your fear be before banish it you can."

"What? Shtof it! Your shon ish the enemy! Or ish it you?"

The intruder shook his head. "Only the Dark Lord of the Sith knows of our weakness. If informed the Senate is, multiply our adversaries will."

"What? Nerdly? But he'sh under my guard'sh control! He will never shqueal! I have bound him with imperial privilege!"

The pointy-eared figured gave an enigmatic smile. "The dark side clouds everything. Impossible to see the future is."

"No! You musht control your shon! And you musht not challenge my hold on Nerdly! And you! Shuffort the fafer I have had shubmitted and kill it to prove your loyalty! And to maintain your foshishion with your feofle!"

Another shrug. "Good relations with the Wookiees, I have."

"If you deshtroy me I will deshtroy you!" Madam screamed.

The figure looked straight into her angry eyes. "Size matters not. Look at me. Judge me by my size, do you? Hmm? Hmm. And well you should not. For my ally is the Force, and a powerful ally it is. Life creates it, makes it grow. Its energy surrounds us and binds us. Luminous beings are we, not this crude matter. You must feel the Force around you; here, between you, me, the tree, the rock, everywhere, yes. Even between the land and the ship."

The figure then turned his back on Madam, and as he left the library, Manong Yoda said, "The shroud of the Dark Side has fallen. Begun, this Clone War has."

Erratum

An error was inadvertently included in yesterday's "With Due Respect," the column by retired Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban. The word "Comelec" in the second sentence of the fourth paragraph—"The authority of the President to name, with the consent of the Comelec, the chair and the commissioners does not include 'acting' or 'temporary' appointments"—should have read "Commission on Appointments."

Why would Mike A caution young Joey?

FIRST GENTLEMAN JOSE MIGUEL ARroyo reportedly said, upon his recent return to the Philippines, that it was just a "chance encounter at Wack-Wack" with whistleblower Jose "Joey" de Venecia III. (INQUIRER, 10/3/07) He said he never told De Venecia to "back off" from the NBN deal. To prove that he was telling the truth, he reasoned: Why would he tell someone "he didn't even know" to back off? He said that all he did was "just to remind him" that he could be held liable for graft since he was the son of an influential official of Congress.

One thing then is now clear: The First Gentleman was in fact there in that meeting. And indeed, the same question may be asked: Why would he caution someone "he didn't even know" about possible liabilities in transactions with government? Where did Mr. Arroyo get off giving out "reminders" to people he didn't know?

If it were truly a "chance encounter," would it not have been a more natural behavior for the First Gentleman to just exchange pleasantries or simply ignore De Venecia (since "he didn't know him" anyway) and get on with whatever urgent business had brought him to Wack-Wack that day?

But it is public knowledge that Mr. Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia, father of Joey, were (past tense?) "good friends." Can anyone really believe the former "didn't know" the son of the latter?

The Arroyos must really think the Filipinos are so stupid to take hook, line and sinker everything that members of the First Family would say! But, probably, they're right!

—STEVE Y. VESPERA,
styves888@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

An insult to Filipino docs

THE WRITERS OF THE show "Desperate Housewives" recently insulted Filipino doctors who are working in the United States. In the episode titled "Now You Know," the character named Susan questioned the credibility of a gynecologist thus: "OK, before we go any further, can I check those diplomas? Cause I would just like to make sure that they're not from some med school in the Philippines."

I am a graduate of the University of the Philippines Class 2001. It feels bittersweet, to say the least, that from my class alone, more than 80 of us are successfully working in the United States in the medical profession. Some of UP's finest have come to publish articles in several prestigious journals and have become chief residents or department chairpersons in hospitals.

It is a big insult to imply that we are quack doctors after having gone through several board examinations and after being able to practice medicine in the United States.

—RICA CRUZ, M.D.,
Department Of Pediatrics,
Texas Tech University
Health Sciences,
El Paso, Texas, USA

Surprised, thankful

LAST AUG. 16, I E-MAILED TO THE INquirer my complaint about my grandmother's long-overdue GSIS pension (January-August 2007) which she did not receive until she died on Aug. 11. I was hoping then that it would be published by the INQUIRER, thinking that with its nationwide circulation, my complaint would definitely catch the attention of the Government Service Insurance System.

Unfortunately, it did not happen. Almost every day, from the time I e-mailed it, I would look into the Letters section of the INQUIRER, but I could not find my letter. I thought that, maybe, my letter did not merit any space in the newspaper or the INQUIRER was getting so many letters that it could not accommodate all of them, including mine. (My letter was published, however, in a local newspaper here in Cagayan de Oro City, for which I am grateful.)

But even though the INQUIRER did not publish my letter, I am very grateful to the newspaper. It is for this reason that I am writing this letter—to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the INQUIRER for the action it took on my complaint. One week after the burial of my grandmother, I received an e-mail from the GSIS head office, asking me about the "circumstances" of my grandmother, and promising to investigate why it took so long to enroll and process her eCard. I was really surprised!

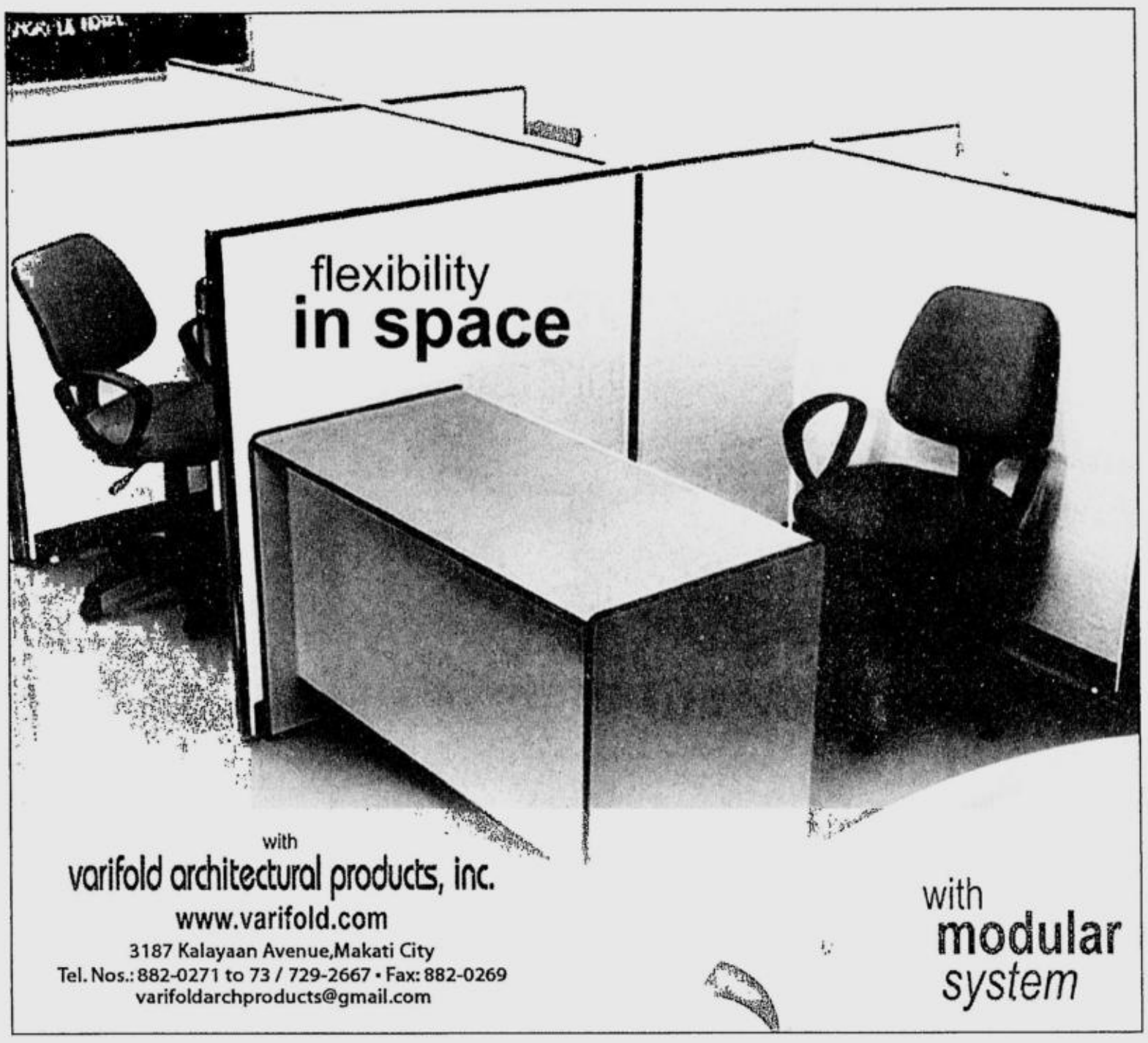
I would learn later on that the INQUIRER forwarded my complaint to the GSIS head office. And I am very thankful to the INQUIRER for doing that. Though it did not publish my complaint, what it did turned out to be even more fruitful than I expected.

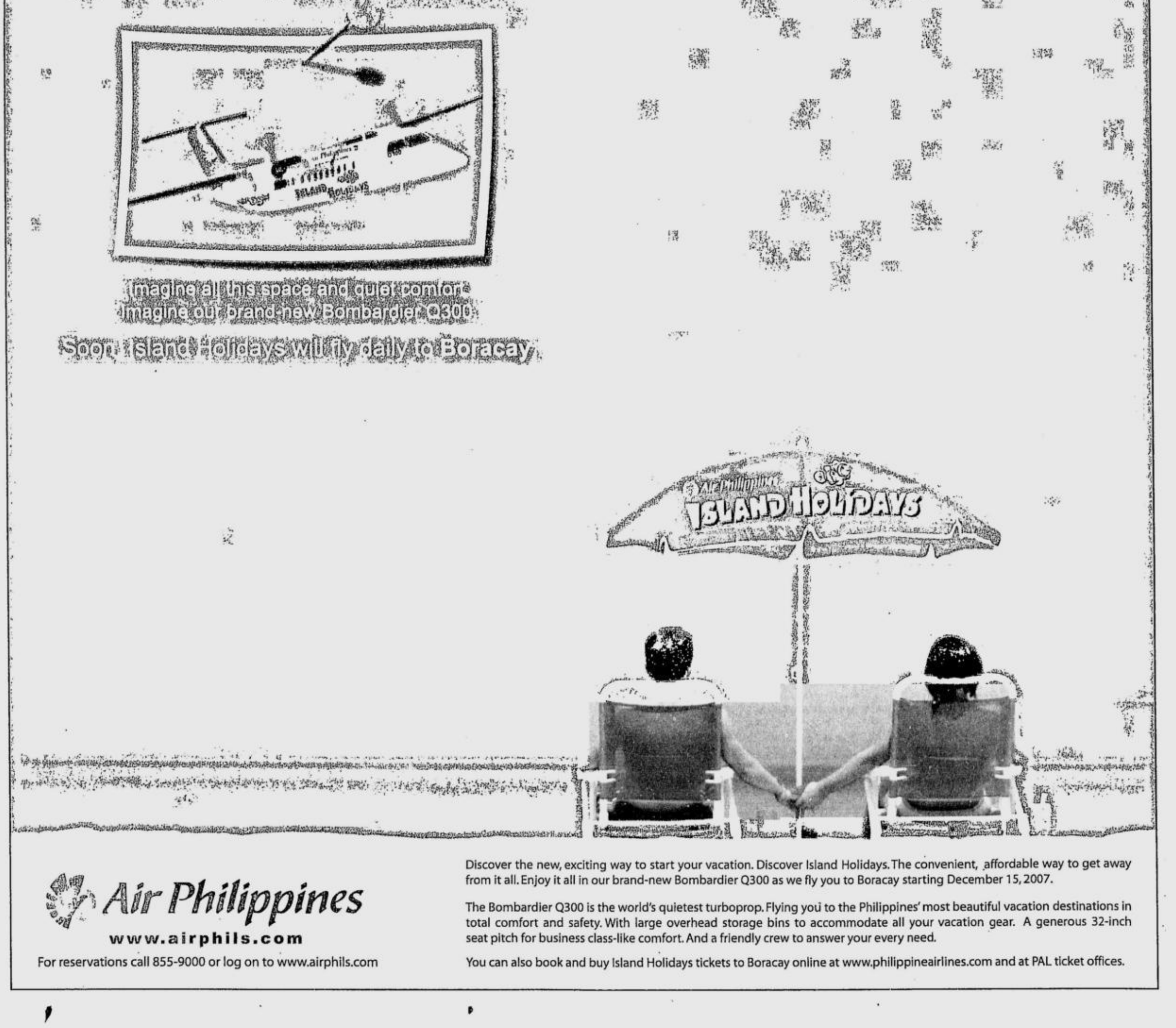
In behalf of the Lagura family, I would also like to extend my sincerest thanks to the GSIS head office, most especially to Jose Antonio Z. Bayoneta, corporate executive officer of the OEVP-Operations Sector, the one who communicated with me. Sir, once again, thank you! Thank you for your assistance, thank you for responding to my complaint. Thank you for your patience in answering my queries. You really replied very quickly. And for facilitating the burial claims and survivorship pension of my grandfather.

I would also like to thank GSIS-Dumaguete for the speedy processing of the papers. If it could be done with our claim, then it could be done with the claims of other pensioners.

Once again, I extend my thanks to the INQUIRER for bringing the voice of the people closer to the government, and to the GSIS for going that extra mile just to deliver its services.

—ENN MERIELL LARGO,
Block 10 Lot 12, PNR Subd.,
Barra, Opol, Misamis Oriental





Bill seeks to penalize illegal cable TV use

LONE CATANDUANES REP. JOSEPH Santiago has introduced a bill that seeks to "criminalize" all unlawful CATV connections. This means CATV signal thieves could go to jail.

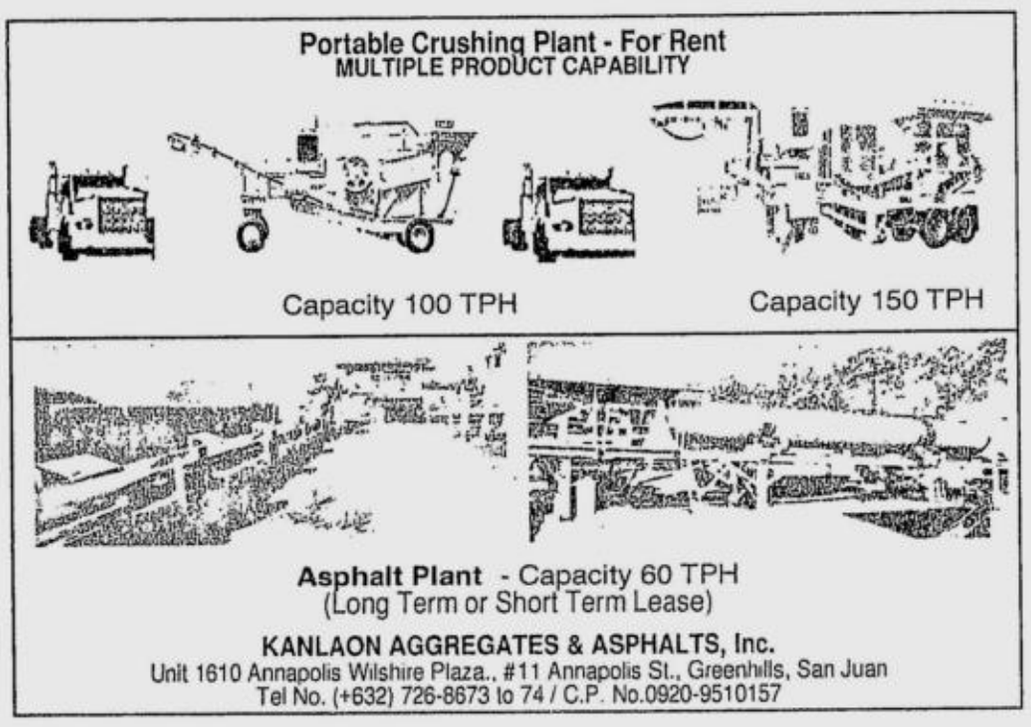
"Extensive illicit CATV connections not only cost private service providers staggering financial losses, but also deprive the government billions of pesos in tax revenues," said Santiago, chair of the House committee on information and communications technology.

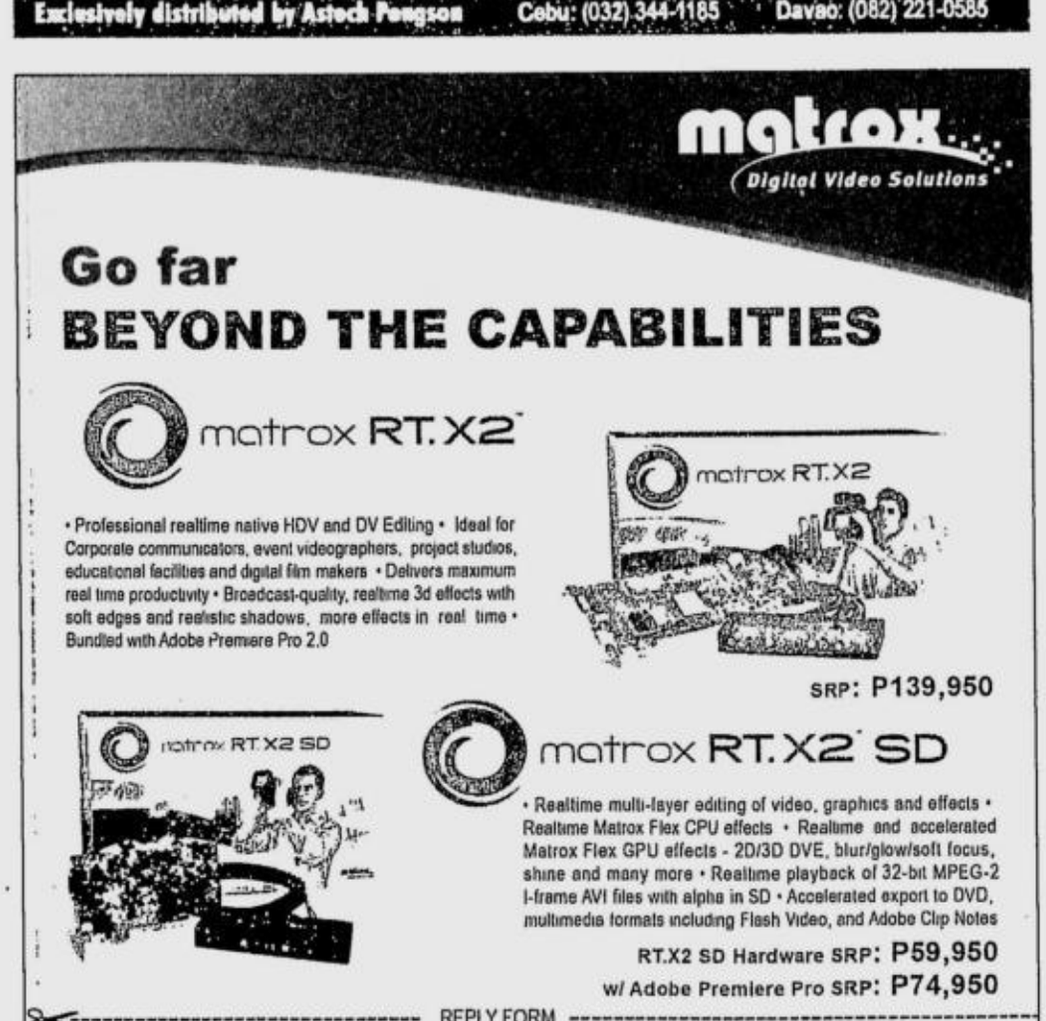
The Philippine Cable TV Association (PCTVA) estimates that its members have been losing at least P7 billion as a result of rampant signal piracy.

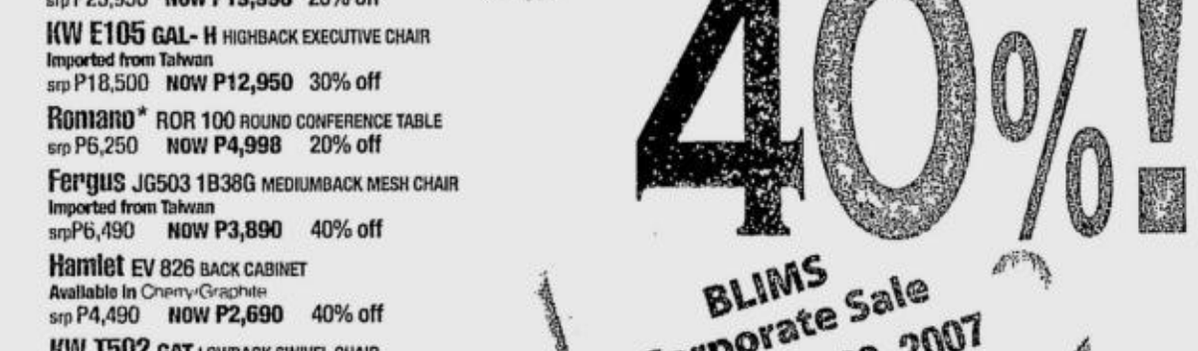
"Based on this estimate, in terms of value-added tax revenues alone, at 12 percent [of the P7 billion], we are easily looking at P840 million in potential tax revenue losses every year," Santiago said.

According to the PCTVA, illegal users now outnumber legitimate subscribers three to one. The industry group reckons that its members have a total of 1.5 million paying subscribers while there are 3 to 4 million illicitly connected users.

Under Bill 4665, authored by Santiago, anyone caught with an unauthorized CATV or Internet connection faces two to five years in prison and a fine of P50,000 to P100,000.







Pacquiao whips Mexican foe anew

From page A1

though it was not the exact final outcome expected by Filipinos in the 10,000-strong crowd, the points verdict proved inevitable after the combatants, showing respect for each other, gave extra emphasis on defense, clean and otherwise.

Pacquiao, who fought like a true gentleman, was often on top of the action and managed to catch Barrera with hefty shots from either hand.

Only 3 rounds

But the battle-scarred Mexican rode on guile and experience to make good his vow of putting up an entirely different stand from the one he exhibited when Pacquiao stopped him in their first encounter four years ago.

By plain look, Barrera managed to win only three rounds in the contest which he prevented from turning into a full-scale slug-out by warding off attacks with his left jab and repeatedly moving away from the ever-charging Pacquiao.

Judges Jerry Roth and Glenn Trowbridge scored it an identical 118-109 for Pacquiao, while Tom Schreck scored it 115-112, also for Pacquiao.

The INQUIRER saw Pacquiao the winner, 117-110.

Curtains down

Visibly pleased with what he had achieved, if not with his desperate escape act in the 11th round, Barrera formally announced he was bringing the curtains down on his 17-year ring career that saw him win titles in three divisions, a feat that has ensured him enrollment in the boxing Hall of Fame.

Barrera blamed himself for being carried away and getting caught in wild exchanges a few times, thus betraying his plan to merely finish the fight with his pride intact.

"I should've not stayed in those exchanges, I should've boxed more," he explained in the post-fight press conference at the media room that teemed with people, including his wife and charming kids.

Praise for Manny

"In the later rounds, my corner was telling me I have to go after him but it was very, very hard because he had such a strong defense. It was very hard to break through," Barrera added.

Pacquiao returned the complement and said his preparation and training helped him go the distance.

"He is still a good fighter, so I had to be careful throughout the fight," Pacquiao explained from the podium which he shared with Barrera.

Pacquiao said he was not worried about the fight going to the scorecards.

"I tried to give people a good show and I hope people liked this fight," he said.

Pacquiao said he was satisfied with the win, although this clearly was not the case with most Filipinos in the audience.

There was the overriding belief that Pacquiao, now at his peak, could have run over the retirement-bound Barrera in their second encounter in four years last night.

If there was a man truly fulfilled last night, it was trainer Freddie Roach who was very pleased to announce that Pacquiao, after last night's fight, had evolved into a well-rounded warrior.

He was 'beautiful'

Roach said Pacquiao, a feared slasher, had shown tremendous improvement in defense.

"Manny boxed well and showed good footwork, which was what we worked at. Manny cut him off and moved him to the right, which was a beautiful thing," he said.

While Barrera made his formal exit from the ring, Pacquiao said he now planned to move up in weight, a result of his having to wrestle frantically with the scales after he barely made the 130-lb limit for his second and last super featherweight fight with Barrera.

Before the fight, the Barrera camp had claimed it had a total of four fight plots ready against Pacquiao who, on the other hand, was given strict orders to go for an early knockout.

All these strategies did not materialize.

Of course, the greatest result of the bout was the sudden bonding that saw Pacquiao bunched with Barrera and his beautiful kids—testament to a new-found friendship recorded in photographs, and a mutual vow that the two excellent fighters, the bitterest of rivals, never will fight each other again.

Victory brings relief to nation weary of scandals

From page A1

recording artist Kyla of the national anthem gave him goose bumps, he said.

"Filipino boxing great Manny Pacquiao once again buoyed the nation's spirit with his excellent fighting form and indomitable spirit," President Macapagal-Arroyo said after watching a telecast of the fight at Malacañang Palace.

"Our 'national fist' is the Philippines' gift to the world of boxing," Ms Arroyo said. She watched the fight at the Palace with her family, Agence France-Presse said.

The win was a relief to a nation wearied by one scandal after another, the latest involving allegations of bribery in the award of the National Broadband Network (NBN) telecommunications project to the Chinese firm ZTE Corp.

Lone TV set

Most patients at the Philhealth Medical Ward of the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital in Legazpi City were glued to the one television set at the nurses' station to watch the bout.

Even those attached to dextrose bottles stood up and ambled to the station, carrying the bottles with them, to follow the fight closely.

Some of the patients would go back and sit down on their beds during the commercial breaks. But three patients remained hooked to the set.

Relief from pain

"At least, we had a break from our sorry condition," remarked one patient, who said the fight made him temporarily forget the pain he was still suffering after a surgery.

Senate President Manny Villar saw Pacquiao's victory as a timely respite from the overheated political atmosphere.

"He (Pacquiao) knew our people are hurting from political bickering. Issues that preoccupied the public for the past few months are reduced now to non-entity," Villar said.

"His feat succeeded in uniting a divided nation and provided our people a needed respite from politics."

Special bond

Sen. Manuel Roxas II said Pacquiao deserved a hero's welcome not only for his "brilliant" defense of his title but also for "creating a special bond among Filipinos here and abroad."

"The Pacquiao Phenomenon tells us of the rich potential that resides in every Filipino, given the chance to excel and the opportunity to train for global competitiveness," said Roxas.

Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. said Pacquiao's victory "shows that Filipinos can achieve anything only if they put their minds and being to the goal."

Many government troops battling communist and Moro insurgents were drawn away briefly from combat duties to watch the bout, according to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

"It's a very inspiring victory," Esperon said. "While it is true that we had an informal ceasefire during the fight, we did not let our guard down."

Sergeant Pacquiao

Led by the Philippine Army's commanding general, Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano, more than 1,000 officers and soldiers, along with their families, filled the Army's Gymnasium in Fort Bonifacio to cheer on reservist Army Sgt. Manny Pacquiao.

"Manny always boosts the morale of our soldiers. It's like in the field, no matter how hard it is, we look forward to victory," said Lt. Col. Rhoderick Parayno, Yano's executive assistant.

The soldiers watched the fight live and for free on three huge screens set up on the gym's walls.

The Army shelled out P15,000 for the pay-per-view subscription, and another P24,000 for snacks.

Ceasefire over

"That's how he (Pacquiao) can unite people," Yano said.

Yano was like any other fan yesterday. By the 12th round, he was seated at the edge of his seat, probably wondering if his reservist sergeant would pull through.

With officers and soldiers in the various service command headquarters and the field glued to the fight, many joked that there had been a temporary suspension of military operations.

"Those who have the time to watch can watch the fight. Our primary consideration is still our operations," Esperon told the INQUIRER.

He said that whatever ceasefire there was began and ended with the fight.

More than 1,000 airmen and their relatives also turned up at a special screening of the fight at the Fernando Air Base—minus the frustrating commercial breaks.

The bout was shown in three venues at the air base: at the Basic Military Training School; at the Air Base Club, and the Officers' Club.

"It was as if they were also at the venue. They all stood up when our national anthem was sung. They shouted at Manny's punches," said Maj. Gerardo Zamudio Jr., the base's chief information officer.

He said contributions of soldiers helped the air base pay for the cable connection. Airmen who wanted to get breakfast before seeing the fight were each charged a fee of P150. *Reports from Nikko Dizon, Tarra Quismundo, Christine O. Avendaño, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Kenneth M. del Rosario in Manila; Jaymee Gamil, Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Romulo O. Ponte, Inquirer Southern Luzon; AP and AFP*

Killing of crusading councilor spooks Sibuyan mining

From page A1

personnel, including guard Mario Kingo, were mobbed by Marin and the picketers before the shooting.

"Let's not allow another Armin to sacrifice his life for Romblon," Noli Zuela, a Sibuyanon and member of the Sibuyanons Against Mining Movement (SAM), said on Friday.

"It's quiet here, but the people are seething inside," said a 38-year-old resident of Barangay España, San Fernando, who asked not to be named for security reasons. "The people have been emboldened by his death. They vowed to continue his fight."

Spark

The death of Marin, 42, could spark stepped-up protest actions against mining on the island.

"Sibuyanons will not give up. Somebody has already shed his blood. We must not fail Armin. He is a martyr and a hero," the SAM said in a statement condemning his killing.

If you look at the map, Sibuyan lies at the heart of the Philippines.

One of the country's densest forests, including Mt. Guiting-Guiting, a natural park, and perhaps the country's cleanest river (Cantingas River) can be found on the island.

It is home to six mammals found nowhere else, 700 vascular plant species (54 of which are endemic), and more than 131 bird species, according to the World Wild Fund for Nature.

Primary forests cover 140 square kilometers, or a third of the 445-square-kilometer island. The forests remain intact, although the lower altitude forest has been logged.

The island was proclaimed by then President Ferdinand Marcos a mangrove reserve, according to the SAM.

Mining applications

There are 13 mining areas plotted and open for application across the island, which comprises San Fernando, Magdiwang and Cajidiocan towns, the group said.

The provincial government has granted SNPDC two small-scale permits to mine nickel in España and Barangay Taclobo, and JKL Brothers Mineral Ore Quarrying Enterprises one small-scale permit to mine ore in Barangay Mabini.

The three exploratory projects are in San Fernando.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau rejected the Sibuyanon and antimining groups' calls for the pullout of mining firms and cancellation of mining permits on the island following Marin's death.

"The areas covered by the permits lie outside of the protected area," MGB Director Horace Ramos said, reacting to the calls. "If Secretary (Lito) Atienza declares those areas closed to mining, that's a different policy."

So far, there's no permit for large-scale mining on Sibuyan pending with the MGB.

"They're still in the exploration stage. They're not mining the area yet; they're still waiting for the exploration approval," Roland de Jesus, the bureau's regional director, said in an interview, referring to SNPDC.

Social acceptance

But De Jesus admitted that the killing could affect the "social acceptability" of a future large-scale mining project in the area.

"That (killing) would somehow affect the progress of its application. Because we will always consider the social acceptance of the project," De Jesus said.

SNPDC is affiliated with Australian firms Pelican Resources Ltd. and BHP Billiton, according to environmentalists.

Until Marin's killing, what had been causing unrest in San Fernando were the explorations by JKL Brothers in Mabini, which lies on the fringe of the island off the coast of Sibuyan Sea.

The INQUIRER travelled to the island with antimining activists and Sibuyanons in early July and was present when San Fernando Mayor Nanette Tansingco conducted a surprise inspection of the project atop a forest on July 3.

Felled trees

In the inspection, Tansingco saw something startling that seemed to confirm the residents' worst fears: The company workers had felled trees and cut a swath of a zigzagging dirt road through the once lush slope.

Residents feared that torrents of rain could trigger landslide from the site, and bury the village below.

The next day, Tansingco issued an order stopping further construction of the dirt road leading to the site because the firm failed to get an environmental compliance certificate.

"Pity the island; they have altered its terrain," Tansingco, a doctor by profession, said in an interview on July 3. "The mining firms should go elsewhere."

At the site, trees, mostly coconut, had been felled, and the company's equipment and hired hands had begun digging up rocks, breaking up these rocks and stacking them together in the shape of a cube, she said.

"It may take years before we feel the after-effects of the destruction. When that time comes, they may not be around anymore. So where are we going to look for them?" Mabini resident Renato Rocero said then, referring to the mining firms.

"We've been getting by without that damned project. We'll manage to live without it," said the *sari-sari* store owner.

But local officials, including Tansingco, seemed to have turned around, and softened their stance against mining on the island, according to Rodne Galicha, a Sibuyanon and SAM coordinator.

This leaves the residents, and the clergy to fend for themselves.

"We have a legal action," Galicha said. "We will hold barricades, vigils. Anyway, the Church is with us."

Burma says 78 more arrested in crackdown

From page A1

Myanmar newspaper, brought to nearly 1,000 the number of people the military regime acknowledges holding in detention centers. According to the junta, a total of 135 Buddhist monks remain in custody.

But dissident groups and foreign governments say more than 6,000 people have been locked up after last month's protests, the biggest in nearly two decades against 45 years of brutal military rule. Soldiers opened fire on demonstrators, who were led by monks, on Sept. 26 and 27, bringing to an abrupt end all resistance.

The government says 10 people, including a Japanese photographer, were killed in the violence. But other independent sources, including foreign governments, say the death toll is likely to run into the hundreds.

The New Light of Myanmar, a mouthpiece of the junta, quoted investigators as saying 78 more people "who were involved in the protest" were being questioned. It did not say when they were detained.

The latest arrests were in addition to 2,093 people who were detained earlier, of which 1,215 were released by Saturday, the newspaper said. Authorities also took in 533 monks for questioning "to differentiate between real monks and bogus monks."

"Out of those taken, 398 monks have been sent back to their respective monasteries," the junta said.

While the junta stepped up its crackdown, its propaganda machine continued to claim massive rallies across the country, allegedly in support of the government. The newspaper said demonstrators denounced the recent protests "instigated" by some monks and members of democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi's party.

Demonstrators waved placards and shouted: "We want peace, we don't want terrorists." It reported four rallies in central and northwestern Burma, attended by 7,500, 19,000, 20,000 and 30,000 people.

Such rallies are widely believed to be stage-managed by the military regime, with every family in the district forced to contribute one or two members.

Global protests

While the streets of Rangoon (Yangon) have been quiet for the last eight days, supporters of prodemocracy activists in Burma came out in the thousands in cities across Europe and Asia on Saturday to mark the International Day of Protests.

"Burma is not a human rights emergency of today, last week or last month," said Irene Khan, the chief of Amnesty International, which organized the global protests.

"It is a human rights emergency that the world has chosen to forget for the last 20 years. We will not forget this time round, we will not let the people of Burma down," Khan said, referring to the country by its former name.

In Britain, Burma's former colonial power, thousands crowded through streets behind saffron-robed Buddhist monks who threw petals into the River Thames. Police said 3,000 people took part. Organizers put the figure at 10,000.

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown issued a message of support to the people of Burma, telling them: "The world has not forgotten—and will not forget—the people of Burma."

Unconditional talks

Rallies against Burma's junta also took place in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane, New Delhi, Singapore, Seoul, Paris, Vienna, Brussels, Washington and Montreal.

In Kuala Lumpur, the Malaysian foreign minister on Sunday urged the Burmese regime to quickly hold unconditional talks with Suu Kyi before the world pushes harder for political change in the military-ruled country.

"Let there be a meeting without any preconditions to discuss the future of Myanmar before the international community enforces stronger pressure," Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar was quoted as saying by the national news agency Bernama.

The United Nations' special envoy to Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, on Friday said he was "cautiously encouraged" after the junta chief, Senior Gen. Than Shwe, offered to meet with Suu Kyi—but with certain conditions. Those include giving up Suu Kyi's calls for confronting the junta and for imposing sanctions against it.

Syed Hamid said Malaysia disagreed with any attempt to implement economic sanctions or military action against Burma, stressing the situation there was "an issue of the violation of laws and basic human rights, not a threat toward international peace and security."

China and Russia also remain opposed to any action by the UN Security Council, saying the situation in Burma was an internal affair.

The European Union last week widened economic sanctions and the United States warned it would push for UN sanctions against Burma if it fails to move toward democracy.

The military has ruled Burma since 1962. The current junta came to power after routing a 1988 prodemocracy uprising, killing at least 3,000 people. Suu Kyi's party won elections in 1990, but the generals refused to accept the results. *Reports from AP and AFP*

Fight disappoints Pacquiao fans hoping for a KO win

By Inquirer Staff
and Inquirer Bureaus

THE PACMAN FEVER STILL CAUGHT Metro Manila yesterday, but it wasn't as scorching as it was before.

For some of the 200 people who caught the satellite showing of the Pacquiao-Barrera bout at the Glorietta 4 cinema in Makati City, the match was a bit of a letdown.

"Disappointing," said Beng Kua, a store-owner in Divisoria.

"OK *lang*," added Joey Solayao, a personal loaner.

Underwhelming, too, was the reaction of viewers who had grown accustomed to the previous knockout finishes of their idol, like, for instance, Pacquiao's 11th-round stoppage of Barrera in their first meeting almost four years ago.

Although cheers and applause rang out in the darkened theater every time Pacquiao landed his combinations, especially in the last four rounds, the mostly male crowd seemed to be expecting a more dramatic resolution.

When Barrera stunned Pacquiao with an overhand right during a break in the 11th round, leading to a point deduction for the Mexican, a lone "Boo!" was heard.

"(Pacquiao) obviously lacked (physical) conditioning. Probably, he only used 85 percent of his strength," Kua, 51, told the INQUIRER.

"Compared to his previous fights, it was disappointing," said Kua, who had also watched three of Pacquiao's previous matches in a movie house. "I really wanted a knockout."

But for 39-year-old Solayao, victory by unanimous decision is still a victory. "Barrera was better prepared this time around. I'm still happy even though it wasn't a knockout," he said.

"Hopefully, this fight will help Pacquiao become a more mature, more professional boxer," Solayao said.

A cinema attendant said tickets to the 198-seat cinema were sold out. But as the match began, a few seats remained unoccupied, with some people standing at the sides.

• In Manila itself, the "Pacman fever" didn't catch on as it did six months ago when live-via-satellite screenings were shown for free at the city's sports complexes during Pacquiao's fight with Mexican Jorge Solis.

Some were disappointed to learn that the huge electronic billboards on the Mercury Drug building in Plaza Miranda, Quiapo, and the sports stadiums in the city would not show the "Will to Win" match.

"There were no negotiations between GMA 7 and Mercury Drug ... from what I heard, GMA 7 would rather that the people watch it on their TVs so the ratings will be high," explained Melvin Gonzalez, the billboards' operator.

Diehard fans, however, could not be stopped by the lack of venues. They tuned in to radio station dzBB to monitor the fight.

The business side

• The Pacquiao-Barrera face-off didn't exactly make the world stand still. But it managed to glue Filipinos to TV channels, carriers, cinemas and shops that broadcast the fight live.

Noel Nacianceno, channel manager of Solar Entertainment, which owns the exclusive program rights to the Pacquiao-Solis fight, said the company and its media partners expected more people to tune in to this bout compared to previous ones.

"Officially, the Pacquiao-Solis fight in April captured 65 percent of TV viewers and 31.9 percent of homes nationwide. As for the report of one million pay-per-view sets nationwide, that is not official," he said.

"We will get the official ratings for Pacquiao-Barrera II next Sunday, one week after the fight, but this early we are optimistic that the ratings will be higher."

The GMA 7 media network, Solar's official media partner in the country, showed a delayed telecast and a live radiocast over 16 FM stations and nine AM stations.

The right Internet and 3G connection afforded some subscribers of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and its cellular arm Smart Communications options for watching the "Pambansang Kamao."

Smart subscribers with a 3G handset and strong enough signal accessed the video stream by clicking on Smart's WAP site (wap.smart.com.ph).

PLDT broadband subscribers, including those of Smart's SmartBro wireless broadband service, also got the service by logging on to www.mypad.net.

Rick Camaligan, vice president for Leisure of SM Group of Companies, happily noted that as of 10 a.m., the start of the live coverage, 55 SM cinemas nationwide sold a total of 35,000 tickets.

"Previously, we sold only half of this (35,000) for similar shows. The very good sales resulted from the high anticipation of the match," Camaligan said from SM Mall of Asia.

Barriers broken

Restaurants and refreshment kiosks that didn't have TV sets or at least radios tuned in to the fight missed out on many customers, with several vendors saying in Filipino, "It's an especially slow morning because on top of being a Sunday, many people who used to travel early Sunday are at home watching Pacquiao."

Even casual dining restaurants, which many Filipinos already refer to as "*sosyal*" or "high class," saw barriers being broken.

VILLAGERS enjoy the live telecast at the Toril Gymnasium in Davao City as part of the Sto. Rosario Parish celebration sponsored by Vice Mayor Sara Duterte. BING GONZALES/INQUIRER MINDANAO

National Sports Grill in Greenbelt 3 seated some 250 paying customers for the show but ended up hosting 200 more bystanders whose choruses could be heard two floors below.

A block away, Italliani's in Greenbelt 2 had fewer bystanders after covering up its walls, but still could not prevent 50 or so people from sharing peeping through the curtains and potted plants to share the experience with 300 paying guests, many of whom were foreigners.

A handful who didn't catch the fight on pay-per-view, mobile TV, PLDT broadband, or the radio may have tried SopCast, a peer-to-peer Internet broadcast. But it is relatively unknown in the Philippines and downloading the sopcast viewer takes so long.

Across the nation

Here was how Sunday went elsewhere across the nation:

• General Santos City—Streets were empty and almost everybody was hooked to television to watch the fight.

In barbershops, coffee shops and even in small eateries people also gathered to watch the fight.

There were pay-per-views of the fight in two big shopping malls, in some resorts and restaurants both here and in nearby Sarangani province.

Pacquiao's supporters, including local officials, enjoyed the fight inside the air-conditioned Lagao gymnasium. Leading the crowd was South Cotabato first district Rep. Darlene Custodio, who defeated Pacquiao in the congressional race in May.

Inside the Pacquiao mansion on NLSA Road in Lagao village, Dionisia, the boxer's mother, led some supporters in praying.

Prayer brigade

For more than two hours, Dionisia and her prayer brigade knelt down before the small altar located at the second floor of Pacman's mansion.

But they did not watch the bout. Dionisia had made it a habit not to watch his son's fight live on pay-per-view. She claimed her heart was too weak to watch her son fight.

They stopped praying when they were informed the fight was over. Then, they erupted into cheers, hugged each other and thanked God for the ring icon's victory.

"I was expecting he would knock out Barrera in the sixth round. I didn't realize Barrera was also strong," Dionisia said.

• In Cotabato City, streets were virtually deserted, with many residents watching the fight on television.

• In Malaybalay City in Bukidnon, a priest cited the Pacquiao fight in his Sunday homily.

The priest told the parishioners not to hurry home because it would be long before the fight would start since the undercards were still playing.

Broken generator

• In the northernmost province of Batanes, workers of the National Power Corp. and residents braved the strong rains and wind and worked overtime to repair a generator set to power their television sets in time for the live broadcast of the fight.

On Friday, the generator set servicing Ivana (pop: 1,293) and the southern towns of Mahatao (pop: 1,895) and Uyugan (pop: 1,268) broke down due to moisture from strong rains accompanying Typhoon "Ineng." Power supply in Ivana was restored at past 11 a.m. Sunday just as residents were returning home from attending Mass.

• In Pampanga, a power outage in the 7th round of the bout spoiled the excitement among boxing fans at the City of San Fernando who were watching the fight on pay-per-view.

Reynaldo David, manager of the Pampanga-Tarlac area of the National Transmission Corp. (Transco), traced the outage to a tripping on the 69th KV line of the San Fernando Electric and Power Corp. (Sfelapco) amid strong rains in the area.

Jose Lazatin, general manager of Sfelapco, said power was restored at 12:32 p.m.

Lazatin said he received numerous complaints from irked Pacquiao fans.

Pacquiao mystique

• At the SM City Pampanga, also in San Fernando, three movie houses played full for the live fight.

• Across the Visayas, the streets were deserted, the public beaches were almost empty, and Church attendance was low.

People instead packed restaurants, bars, convention centers, gymnasium, movie houses, homes and even the reception and sitting lounges of hospitals to watch the fight.

Bacolod City Mayor Evelio Leonardia, who carried the Filipino boxer's belt into the ring in Las Vegas, said he was amazed that the "Pacquiao mystique continues to grip the Filipino people."

• In Cebu City, most residents stayed indoors.

The city traffic operation management (Citom) reported a 40-percent decrease in the number of public utility vehicles plying the routes during the broadcast of the fight.

Intersections and parking lots near churches, which were usually packed on Sundays, hardly had any traffic, the Citom said. *With reports from Riza Olchondra, Allison W. Lopez, DJ Yap and Tarra Quismundo in Manila; Joey A. Gabieta, Carla Gomez and Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas; Aquiles Z. Zonio, Charlie C. Señase, Richel V. Umel, Alvin Añonuevo and Grace C. Albasin, Inquirer Mindanao; Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon; Juliet Cataluña and Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon; Jaymee Gamil, Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Romulo O. Ponte, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

> In Manila, 'Pacman fever' didn't catch on as it did six months ago when live-via-satellite screenings were shown for free at the city's sports complex

THE 19TH NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

BLAZING TRAILS
ITS NOT A MATTER OF SIZE

OCTOBER 11, 2007 (Thursday)

Opening Remarks
Ruby M. Tamayo
VP – Internal and NQF Chairperson

Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Angelica C. Fraginal
PSQ President

Keynote Address: Spreading the Value of Entrepreneurship
Jose Ma. A. Concepcion III
President & CEO
RFM Corporation
Presidential Consultant for Entrepreneurship

Juran Awards Ceremony
Fanny N. Villanueva
PSQ Vice President – External

Blue Ocean Strategy: Creating New Market Space, Creating New Profit Sources, Breaking Out of Parity
Josiah Go
Chairman and Chief Marketing Strategist
Manamith and Fielders, Inc.

Break

LEAN and Smart Applications for Big & Small Companies
Rudy Go
Lean Transformation Manager
Pratt and Whitney
USA

Creativity and Innovation in Quality Management; An Insight
Raju Mandhyan
Chairman
Philippines India Business Council

Lunch Break

Quality From A Conference Center Perspective
Agnes L. Fidelino
AVP & Managing Director
MMLDC

Information Systems to Drive Business
Emmanuel Dizon
Assistant Vice President
e-PLDT

Trailblazing from the Heart & Soul: Inspiring Tomorrow Today
Imelda Roberts
President & CEO
First Magnitude International 2006 Ellis Island Medal of Honor Recipient

Break

Strategies to Keeping Employees Engaged
Albert G. Mateo
General Manager,
Pfizer Philippines

Unbinding Organizational Boundaries: Vertical Integration and Outsourcing
Ronald Luis S. Gonoco
Head, Logistics & Administration Support
Globe Telecom

Integration
Cynthia J. Cabasag
PSQ Trustee

OCTOBER 12, 2007 (Friday)

Quality Is In The EYE
Anna Karina P. Gerochi
Managing Director
Asian Eye Institute

Breads that Beat the Competition
Simplicio P. Umali Jr.
President & General Manager
Gardenia Bakeries Phil, Inc.

Setting the Pace in Health Care Systems
Carla N. Diwa
Systems Manager
The Medical City

Break

Competing With the Giants
Gerardo V. Cabochan Jr.
Managing Director
Pandayan Bookshop

Enhancing Worker Marketability
Rhoda C. Caliwara
President & General Manager
Executive Genesis Manpower Services, Inc.

Lunch Break

Improving Packaging Technology for Philippine Food Products in the Regions
Daisy E. Tañafranca
Program Leader
Packaging R&D Center
Department of Science & Technology

Packaging Makes Perfect
Carmelita R. Reyes
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Aklan clergy rally vs STL

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE DIOCESE OF KALIBO WILL spearhead today a prayer rally against the plan to allow the operation of Small Town Lottery (STL) in Aklan.

Hundreds of priests and Catholic faithful from 24 parishes of the diocese were expected to join the rally at the capitol where a public hearing would be held, according to Fr. Isauro David, parish priest of Makato town.

In a pastoral statement, Kalibo Bishop Jose Romeo Lazo called on the priests, parish pastoral councils and lay organizations to denounce the entry of the STL and to launch an information campaign on the evils of gambling.

"I appeal to the conscience and moral principles of our political leaders to protect the very people they swore to serve from being destroyed by STL and the culture of gambling in general," said Lazo.

The provincial board is conducting public hearings on the proposal of the League of Municipalities-Aklan chapter to allow the numbers game to operate.

Sixteen of the 17 municipal mayors passed a resolution on Sept. 11, inviting the chair and the general manager of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) to conduct a test run of the STL in Aklan.

The mayors included Kalibo Mayor Raymar Rebaldo, who had opposed the operation of the STL last year.

They invited the two PCSO officials to orient the LMP officials and the province on the rules and regulations governing the operation of the numbers game.

In the resolution, the mayors said the legalization of the STL would lessen the work of law enforcement agencies tasked with cracking down on illegal gambling and enable them to focus on other peace and order and security concerns.

They said proceeds from the STL would benefit charitable institutions and local government units and could be used to fund people's programs and services.

They also sent a letter to Vice Gov. Gabrielle Calizo, saying that the legalization of the STL "would be favorable to local government unit(s), as long as regulatory measures were undertaken."

In the letter signed by Mayor Elverita Templonuevo, LMP-Aklan public relations officer, the league said the STL "would eliminate if not completely eradicate the illegal gambling operation in the province."

The STL, she said, was "synonymous" with the lottery, also operated by the PCSO, which had given additional funds to local governments.

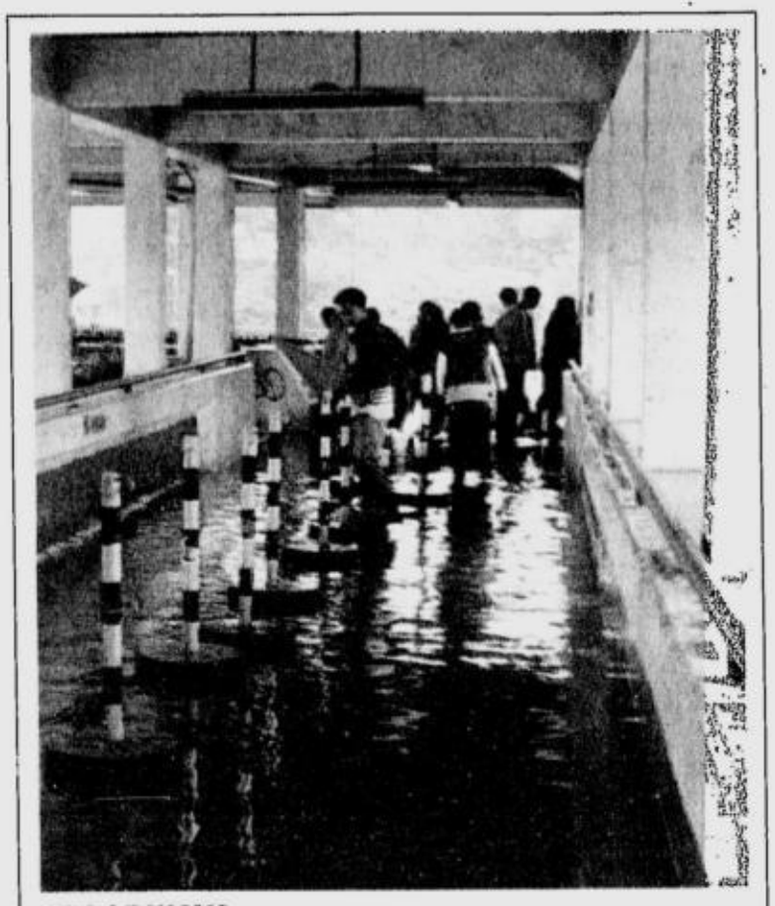
But Lazo said the Church was concerned with the initiative of the mayors. He pointed out that the provincial board had turned down the proposal thrice.

The board passed a resolution in 2006 opposing the operation of the STL and declared that it would reject any application for the operation of the numbers game.

It had said the STL would be "detrimental to the moral, familial and financial well being" of the Aklanon.

The STL is operating in Iloilo City but is barred in other areas of the province.

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, earlier issued a statement calling on all government officials to stop STL operation.



FLOODWAYS VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON
Baguio's overpasses were not engineered to contain this much run-off rainfall, forcing residents to hop on traffic barriers to cross to the other side of the street. Storm "Ineng" brought strong rains to the Summer Capital.

Army intelligence officer shot dead in Sorsogon

CASIGURAN, SORSOGON—AN Army intelligence officer was shot dead here Saturday by suspected members of the New People's Army's Sparrow unit, police reported on Sunday.

Chief Insp. Jose Pesonila, Casiguran police chief, identified the victim as Cpl. Johnny Raymundo, an intelligence officer of the Army's 2nd Infantry Battalion based in Juban town.

Pesonila said the victim suffered eight bullet wounds and died instantly at the Casiguran municipal cockpit coliseum where the attack took place at about 3:45 p.m.

At least four men staged the attack based on accounts of eyewitnesses, he added.

Police recovered eight empty shells from a .45 cal. pistol at the crime scene.

Pesonila said the killers failed to take the service firearm of the victim.

Lt. Col. Rodrigo Gregorio, commanding officer of the 2nd Infantry Battalion, said the victim was on a covert operation when he was killed.

He said the intelligence officer might have blown his cover, that was why he was "traced" by the killers.

The local NPA command has not issued any statement yet on the killing. *Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Village candidates ready liquor, cigarettes for voters

LUCENA CITY—VILLAGE CANDIDATES are busy preparing campaign logistics to win in the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on Oct. 29.

Bert Abrigo, who is running for councilor in Barangay Gulang-Gulang here, said that aside from finishing the draft of his platform of government, he was also consolidating resources to finance his campaign.

"The village poll is also costly for the candidate. We also have to pamper most of our voters through tested campaign materials, like liquor, cigarettes and other stuff," Abrigo said.

Abrigo, a local media man, said most of his logistics were donated by relatives and friends.

"With the village election now sure to push through, we have to be ready with everything, from election documents, mandatory drug test results, campaign logistics to win," he said.

Anthony "Alvin" Remolar, a candidate for councilor in Barangay 5, said he had made the rounds of friends and relatives soliciting for logistics.

"Some have promised to provide me with liquor, cigarettes and money [for the] printing of campaign materials," he said.

Logistics buildup is but an "unavoidable" part of the campaign, Abrigo and Remolar explained.

They said they wanted the villagers to vote for candidates who could best serve the interest of their place and not because of "loaded logistics."

Others said they detested the practice by villagers of asking for money from candidates, especially by the so-called "professional solicitors."

"These groups of professional solicitors have been making the rounds of village candidates, asking for money for all sorts of reasons, one of them to buy medicine for a sick family member. They will even show a piece of prescription already crumpled from long use," said one candidate for barangay captain in the city proper.

He lamented how the election campaign period has become a "quick money-making scheme" for some unscrupulous voters.

On Oct. 29, a barangay chief, a Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) chair, seven barangay councilors and seven SK councilors will be elected in every village across the country.

Filing of certificates of candidacies started on Sept. 29 and will last until Oct. 18 or a period of 20 days.

On Oct. 3, President Macapagal-Arroyo appealed to the Senate to pass a bill postponing the village and youth council elections. She certified as urgent House Bill No. 2417, which would reset both polls anew.

But latest developments in the Senate indicate that the elections will proceed as scheduled on Oct. 29. It failed to act on Sen. Richard Gordon's proposed similar bill on a technicality.

Sen. Miguel Zubiri tried to sponsor Gordon's Senate Bill No. 1660 during the Oct. 3 session but was blocked by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. on grounds that it violates Senate rules.

Zubiri admitted that Gordon merely "verbally asked" him to sponsor the bill.

Pimentel cited Section 71(b) of the Senate rules, which says that only the committee chair or another senator designated by the committee can sponsor a bill on the floor.

Pimentel vowed that he would not be cowed into supporting the bill because the barangay and youth officials have already overstayed in their respective positions for about seven years. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Guimaras oil spill claims rejected

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL organization that provides compensation to oil spill victims has rejected claims for damages of nearly 133,000 people of Guimaras and Iloilo in connection with last year's oil spill in Guimaras.

The rejected claims include 125,480 in Guimaras and 7,416 in Iloilo, according to a Sept. 24, 2007, report of the London-based International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPCF).

The report will be presented to the fund's executive committee during its meeting on Oct. 15, said IOPCF claims manager, Capt. Patrick Joseph, in an e-mail to the INQUIRER.

Of the 125,614 second-batch claimants from Guimaras, only 134 were accepted and were offered compensation totaling P1.4 million, according to the report.

The claims were rejected because they were incomplete and a significant number were from people under the age of 18 years, which is the minimum age at which people are allowed to engage in fishing in the country.

The IOPCF had earlier also raised concern over the number of claimants in Guimaras saying it was improbable that the oil spill had affected 80 percent of the island's population of about 154,000.

The Fund has accepted only 5,434 claims out of the 15,850 second batch claimants from municipalities in Iloilo using the same basis in screening the Guimaras claimants.

It rejected 6,090 claims from seaweed farmers and only accepted 299. The Fund said that when they investigated the claims, "it became apparent that a large number of these claimants were not involved in seaweed farming at the time of the incident."

The IOPCF has paid a total of P906,669,648 in compensation for economic losses and refund for expenses in the clean-up and preventive measures in relation to the Aug. 11, 2006 sinking of the MT Solar I off the coasts of Guimaras.

The sunken vessel spilled 2.1 million liters of bunker fuel contaminating marine resources and dislocating thousands of residents mostly dependent on fishing for their livelihood.

But 80 percent of the IOPCF's payments (P725,317,664) were refunds for clean-up and preventive measures. Only 19 percent (P174,176,143) comprised payment for economic losses in fishery sector and another P2,186,658 for the tourism sector.

The Fund had received claims totaling P2,514,425,538. It paid 22,307 claims amounting to P174,176,143 as compensation for economic losses for Guimaras and Iloilo residents. The Fund also paid P2,186,658 to 57 claimants from the island's tourism sector and P2,142,301 to 74 claims in property damages

Farmers reduce pesticide use, says exec

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—VEGETABLES from the Cordillera are safe from chemical residue and can be consumed even if they have traces of pesticide, according to the Bureau of Plant Industry.

A pesticide residue profile of agricultural crops in the region showed that 82 percent of vegetables that the BPI monitored last year had no pesticide residues or any specified substance that remains in food and agricultural commodities resulting from the use of pesticides.

The residues include derivatives of pesticides, such as metabolites, reaction products and impurities considered to be of toxicological substance.

The BPI said 17 percent of the samples had residues below the maximum residue limit (MRL), while 1 percent had residues beyond the limit. The MRL represents the concentration of a pesticide residue resulting from the use of pesticides.

Adoracion Ceniza, agricultural center chief of the national pesticide analytical laboratory of the BPI-Cordillera, said increasing awareness on the effects of pesticides had prompted farmers to use the right amount of chemical inputs to vegetables.

"We cannot deny that there are farmers who are using chemicals and pesticides and we want to protect the consumers. We are mandated to ensure the quality of the products by monitoring the residue level," Ceniza said in a forum here Oct. 3.

"Those who overuse the pesticides may still need more education. There are farmers who have been using too much chemicals maybe because they have not been informed of the harmful effects."

She said the decreasing use of chemicals and pesticides could also be attributed to the farmers' shift to organic farming and integrated pest management (IPM).

A farmers' group, however, said the government was still encouraging the wide use of pesticides and chemicals by allowing foreign varieties of seeds of rice and vegetables in the country.

Andres Wailan, vice chair of Apit-Tako, said the farmers were threatened by the entry of hybrid seed varieties that require the use of harmful chemicals.

Farmers from Benguet, Kalinga, Abra, Ifugao and Mt. Province were worried that the hybrid seeds, which they call "terminator seeds" or "suicide seeds," have reached even the remotest villages, he said.

The hybrid rice varieties are displacing the traditional varieties.

"Despite the farmers' plea to stop the hybridization of our rice, hybrid seeds continue to plague our farms to the detriment of the farmers who struggle too much to buy expensive farming inputs and to the consumers who eat rice which are not safe due to chemicals," Wailan said.

Cordillera farmers were expecting to launch the "food-without-poison" campaign in time for the celebration of National Peasants Month this October.

Wailan said the farmers' groups were monitoring six hybrid varieties being considered for introduction in the provinces, including in Kalinga.

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ROUNDUP

Motorists complain of untimely fuel hike

SAN PABLO CITY—Motorists have complained against JMR Gasoline Service Total Station in Barangay Maitim, Bay, Laguna, for increasing its diesel fuel very early on Saturday despite media announcements by Total (Philippines) in Manila that it would implement fuel increases at 6 a.m that day.

One of them, who requested anonymity as he resides near the station, told the INQUIRER that as early as 5 a.m. on Saturday, the gasoline boy charged him the increased price of P35.25 per liter from P34.75 because, according to the employee, that was the order of their boss.

In previous years, the station was the subject of complaints from motorists as it charged prices higher than those put on its price list.

Romulo O. Ponte, Inquirer Southern Luzon

American inmate ordered transferred

BACOLOD CITY—The Kabankalan Regional Trial Court (RTC) ordered the transfer of an American inmate, considered a high-risk detainee, from the provincial jail to the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa City.

Judge Henry Arles on Sunday said he ordered the transfer of Victor Pearson, who has been serving an 80-year sentence for two counts of rape at the provincial jail here.

Pearson filed a motion to hold his transfer in abeyance but provincial warden Marcos Ybañez opposed the motion.

Pearson, a retired member of the US Marine Corps from Oregon, was arrested at his house in Barangay Andulawan, Ilog, in August 2001.

Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

Ex-police agent gunned down in Cavite

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—An unidentified armed man gunned down a retired officer of the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Bacoor, Cavite, on Sept. 28.

Police said SPO4 Dante Moral, 58, formerly assigned to the CIDG in Camp Crame, of Barangay Poblacion, Bacoor, died from a bullet wound in the head.

He said the victim was watching a group of men playing card games along a road in Barangay Molino II when four unidentified men arrived at around 3 p.m. and shot him ***Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon***

15 hurt in Basilan clashes

ZAMBOANGA CITY—At least 15 people, including a 16-year-old student, were wounded in separate clashes in Tipi-tipo Central, Basilan, on Sept. 25.

Basilan police chief Supt. Salik Macapantar said 16-year-old Nadzala Zailon was hit by a stray bullet during the first clash between members of the Airborne and Scout Rangers and Abu Sayyaf bandits led by Nurruddin Mudalang in Sitio Maputi, Barangay Baguindan, at about 8:30 a.m. Macapantar said the residents fled from the fighting.

Ungkaya Pukan Mayor Joel Maturan said militiamen and soldiers were conducting clearing operations when they chanced upon the Abu Sayyaf group again in Barangay Silangkom, only 2.5 kilometers from Baguindanan.

Maturan said 11 Scout Ranger soldiers and two militiamen were wounded. ***Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao***

Japanese nabbed in Davao

DAVAO CITY—Immigration agents arrested a Japanese living in Bansalan, Davao del Sur, following complaints that he was becoming violent.

Benjamin Lao, alien control officer of the Immigration office in Southern Mindanao, said Shin Komatsu, 55, was also being accused of arson after he allegedly set his store on fire.

Lao said Komatsu entered the country on July 8, 2004, and married a Filipina. They later separated.

After the split, Komatsu allegedly started creating trouble in the village.

Komatsu is currently detained at the immigration office pending deportation proceedings. ***Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao***

Village official abducted

KAUSWAGAN, Lanao del Norte—Two motorcycle-riding gunmen abducted a village official here on Tuesday morning.

SPO3 Jessie Korpin, desk officer at the Kauswagan police, said the abductors brought Manuel Gomez, councilor of Barangay Inudaran, to a place near Munai town from his coconut farm at about 10:30 a.m.

Korpin said a ransom demand had been sent to the Gomez family as authorities tried to secure his release.

In Iligan, the city government's P8.9 security project that included 44 surveillance cameras installed in strategic parts of the city, is now fully functional. ***Richel Umel, Inquirer Mindanao***

Ex-Army colonel slain

ZAMBOANGA CITY—An unidentified gunman shot dead a retired Army colonel who was helping the military in intelligence gathering in Sulu on Sept. 26.

City police director Senior Supt. Manuel Barcena said Manuel Honggo, 68, was on his way home when he was shot in Barangay Baliwasan here.

Barcena said it was the second attempt on Honggo, who also worked as chief security aide of a Sulu politician.

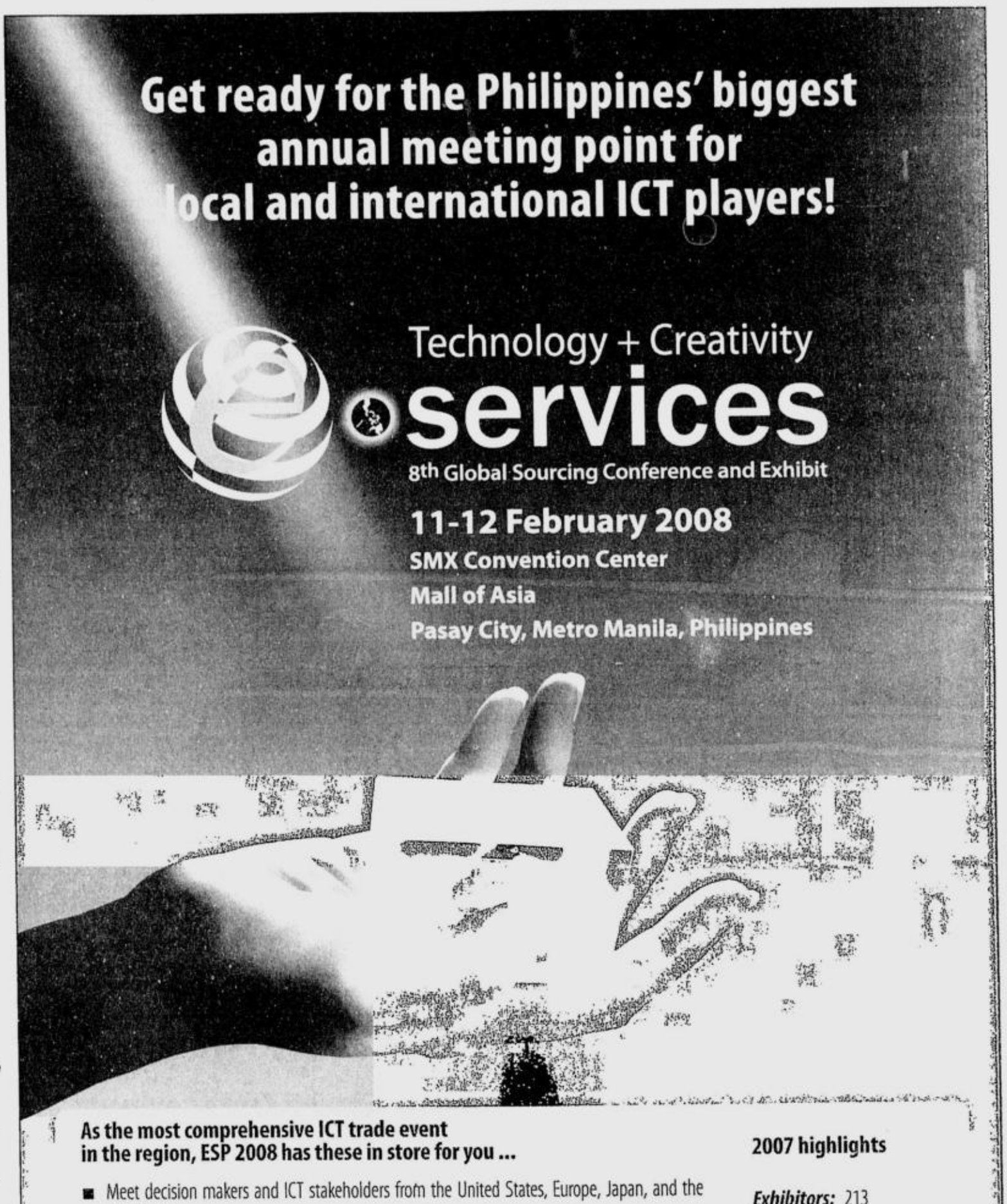
Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

Seminar on archiving

THE SOCIETY of Filipino Archivists Inc., in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, will conduct a live-in seminar workshop on "Conservation of Documentary Heritage Collection" on Oct. 22-24 at Pearlmont Inn on Lim Ket Kai Drive, Cagayan de Oro City.

As a sequel to the "Preservation Management: Setting Up a Preservation Program for Libraries and Archives" already implemented by the society, more workshops and hands-on exercises will be offered.

For details, contact Emma M. Rey, tel. no. (02) 9315966, e-mail: emmamrey@yahoo.com; Ma. Theresa S. Bondoc tel. no. (02) 5526856, e-mail: dirbondoc@yahoo.com; Sarah T. Moscosa tel. no. (02) 9514322, e-mail sarahmoscosa@yahoo.com



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Protests prompt suspension of city's rerouting plan

LEGAZPI CITY—CITY OFFICIALS have suspended a rerouting plan that prevented public utility jeeps from several towns of Albay from entering the central commercial hub here following protests from business and transport groups.

The groups charged the city government of misspending taxpayers' money when it allowed the building of an access road worth almost P1 million that, they said, tended to favor a giant mall.

Rerouting

Construction of the road and the "unnecessary" rerouting of jeepneys were killing small businesses and undermining their right to fair competition, they said.

In a dialogue with the groups on Tuesday, Mayor Noel Rosal said the access road was meant to ease heavy traffic in the downtown area and not to favor Metro Gaisano and Pacific Mall.

In an executive order on Sept. 17, Rosal banned jeepneys plying the northeastern and northwestern towns from the port district and instead made them use the 300-meter access road from the city terminal to the mall.

Access road

The terminal serves as endpoint of all jeepneys coming from Tabaco City, Sto. Domingo, Guinobatan, Ligao City, Oas and Polangui.

Eugene Sangil, who represents the business sector, said at least 188 business owners protested the mayor's order which, they said, could lead to the closure and bankruptcy of establishments in the port district.

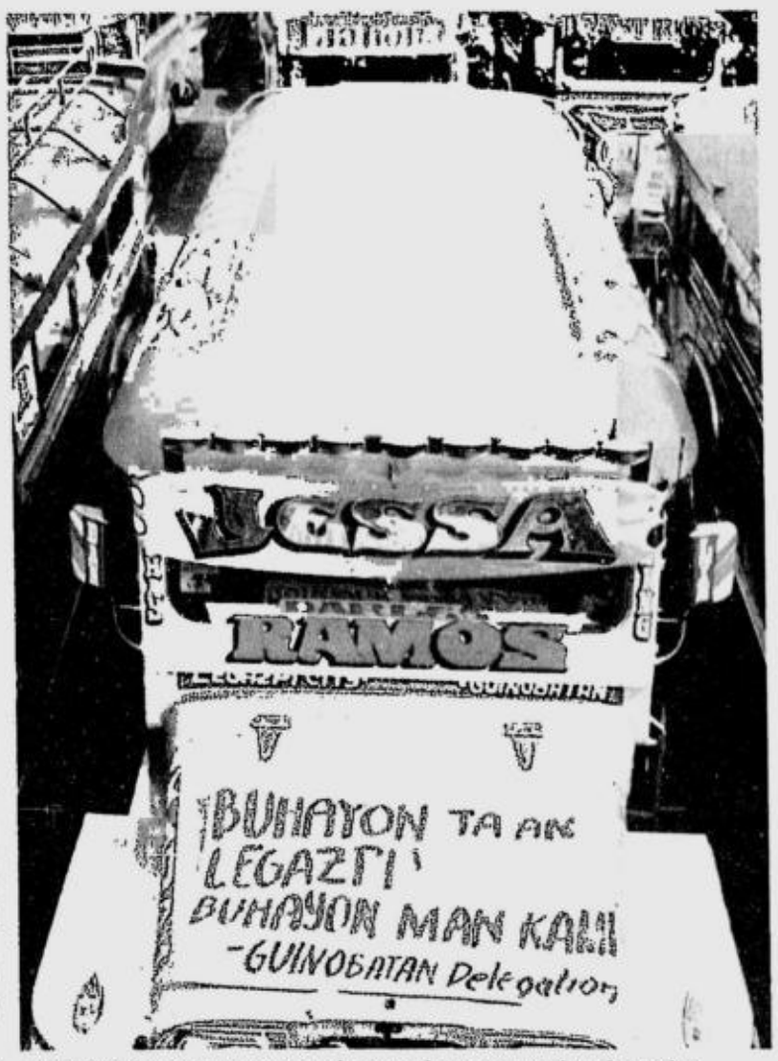
Affected routes

Jeepney drivers staged a strike and rally in front of City Hall on Oct. 2. At least 810 jeepneys were plying the affected routes, said Gerald Silvestre, secretary general of the Condor-Piston in Bicol.

The drivers complained that they lost half of their average daily income of P650 to pay for boundary fees, Silvestre said.

Student groups also joined the protest, saying the riding public, especially the students, were made to take additional rides because of the rerouting scheme. Michael Malano, a student regent of Bicol University, said about 3,000 students from the northern towns were affected.

Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon



JEEPNEY drivers, owners, students and representatives from the business sector gather at the Peñaranda Park in Legazpi City Oct. 2 to show their opposition to the banning of jeepneys plying the routes from Legazpi City to the first and third districts and vice versa from entering the city's main thoroughfares. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Town execs fight over dengue data

By Gabriel Cardiñoza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BASISTA, PANGASINAN—OFFICIALS are now locked in a bitter squabble on how to handle the dengue cases in at least five villages here that have killed one resident.

Mayor Raul de Guzman wanted the municipal council to declare a "selective" state of calamity in the villages but the council voted down the proposal, 5-4, after a heated discussion.

"They tried to force the issue," said Vice Mayor Jesus Perez. "There really was no basis in declaring a selective state of calamity."

He said the mayor's political allies in the council used "doubtful" data as basis to push for the state of calamity resolution.

"They said there were 120 dengue cases in our town as of Sept. 28. But when I checked with the municipal health officer, there were only 85 as of that date," Perez said.

Cases

"Besides, all of the dengue cases have been cured. So, there's no need to declare a state of calamity," he added.

Dr. Lilibeth Fermin, municipal health officer, said there were 121 suspected dengue cases here. "All of the cases we have are suspected cases because these have not been confirmed yet by the Department of Health," Fermin said.

But the provincial health office (PHO) in the capital town of Lingayen has listed only 19 cases and one death in Basista.

Pangasinan health officer Dr. Anna Maria Teresa de Guzman said Fermin's data included cases from private hospitals in San Carlos City.

"Cases admitted in private hospitals will have to be reviewed first by the DOH before these are submitted to us," she said.

She said a confusion in Pangasinan happened last year when the PHO and the DOH had conflicting data on the dengue situation.

Because of the incident, De Guzman said, it was agreed in a consultative meeting that data from government hospitals would go to the PHO and those from private hospitals would go to the DOH.

But Mayor De Guzman, a medical doctor, said that even if these were only suspected cases, more and more people were falling ill.

"Just this morning, two people from the Poblacion came here to ask for help because their loved ones were getting sick," he said.

He said a torniquet test and platelet count examination would already show that a person had dengue fever.

Polls

Perez insisted that the mayor wanted the declaration of state of calamity so he could spend the calamity fund for the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataang elections this month.

This town has P1.4 million in calamity fund.

Perez said Dumpay, one of the villages supposed to be included in the state of calamity declaration, is where Mayor De Guzman's ally, Liga ng mga Barangay federation president Leonardo Caranto, resides.

The other villages are Mapolopolo, Navatat, Malimpec and Bayoyong.

Caranto, who sits as sectoral representative in the municipal council, sponsored the resolution.

"The situation is not really alarming," Perez said. Last year, he said, two persons died and 35 others had dengue but a state of calamity was not declared.

A state of calamity was declared because of the dengue cases, Mayor De Guzman said.

Dureza denies Malaysia backing off from talks

ZAMBOANGA CITY—PEACE PROCESS Adviser Secretary Jesus Dureza said claims that Malaysia was backing-off from the peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) were inaccurate.

Speculations have been spreading after reports that the tour of duty of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) would last only up to December.

"The recent development is Malaysia's decision to renew the IMT to three months and subject to extension as needed. To say that this shortened but renewable term for the IMT is abandonment is stretching the context beyond credibility," Dureza said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

Dureza, who was in New York as part of the Philippine delegation to the UN General Assembly, said Malaysia has been immensely contributing to the peace process.

"And we are confident it will continue to be with us and other nations in our peace and development work," he said.

Government chief negotiator retired Gen. Rodolfo Garcia also laughed-off the reports.

Mohaqer Iqbal, MILF chief negotiator, however said the shortened term for the IMT should serve as a wake up call to the government.

The IMT, a body created by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to oversee the ceasefire agreement in Mindanao, ended its tour of duty in July.

But in late August, government and MILF negotiators agreed to extend the IMT's term up to December. Malaysia agreed to the extension of the IMT's mandate.

The formal peace talks was expected to resume anytime this month.

Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

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Kaogma Festival Dancers
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11:00 a.m. - Cocktails
5:00 p.m. - Kaogma Cultural Presentation
6:00 p.m. - Concert with Ms. Carmen Camacho
7:00 p.m. - Concert with Salbakuta

October 12 (Friday)
5:00 p.m. - "Elvis Presley of Asia" (Edgar Opida & Company)
7:00 p.m. - Pork Barrel Band

October 13 (Saturday)
5:00 p.m - Top Magician of the Philippines "Mr. Lou Hilario"
7:00 p.m. - Community-Based Theater Group of Sorsogon

October 14 (Sunday)
5:00 p.m. - Cultural Show by Pamana Foundation, Inc.
6:00 p.m. - Just Between Friends Band

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Chinese gov't sends team to probe 'toxic' candies

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—CHINESE CONSULAR officials on Saturday said their government had sent a team to Guangdong to check whether the candies that downed 23 schoolchildren in a northern town in Cebu came from that China province.

Consul General He Shijing and two Chinese consuls met with Nagiel Bañacia, information and protocol officer of the city government, to express concern over the incident.

"They want to take action on the matter. They are very sensitive to this," Bañacia said after the meeting on Oct. 6 at the Department of Foreign Affairs office here.

Economic and Commercial consul Wang Xiulin, Consul Li Qing and Angel Espiritu, foreign affairs regional director, also attended the meeting.

Bañacia said the Chinese consul general informed him that the Chinese government in Beijing called the consulate's attention on the incident.

Presumably, Bañacia said, Beijing learned about the Madridejos incident through www.inquirer.net, the INQUIRER website.

He said the Chinese officials also mentioned the Saturday's issue of Cebu Daily News, which published a photo of the candies and some details of the products on its front page.

Bañacia said the Chinese consul general requested a meeting with him since his job as city protocol officer involved international and national relations.

"The consul general was very concerned about the news which already reached Beijing. They were very concerned because it was reported that the products came from China and many children were brought to the hospital," he said.

Bañacia said the Chinese consuls wanted to verify whether the candies from Guangdong caused the hospitalization of the 23 pupils of the San Agustin Elementary School in Madridejos.

They also wanted to know the name of the manufacturer, place of manufacture and expiry date of the product.

Bañacia said he asked Madridejos Councilor Emie Mates-Gabito for samples of the products but these had been submitted to the Bureau of Food and Drugs for examination.

Gabito earlier said the 23 pupils were hospitalized after they ate Ube Milk candies given by a birthday celebrator to her classmates.

The candies were bought from a stall in Bantayan town, but the owner claimed she bought it from Candyhouse Marketing here.

Bañacia said he talked with Gabito over the phone to express concern over the matter.

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N. Mindanao is new drug capital

By Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez
Inquirer Mindanao

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—NORTHERN Mindanao is now the country's illegal drugs capital, according to the Philippine Drugs Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

PDEA Director General Dionosio Santiago said the agency based its tag on the worsening drugs problem in the key cities of Ozamiz and Iligan, and in nearby Marawi City in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Big drug syndicates have moved to Northern Mindanao and have taken advantage of its strategic location as distribution center PDEA regional director Supt. Glenn Dichosa de la Torre said.

"The main office may have assessed it (illegal drugs status) based on information from our partners. We do networking with the US and Chinese governments, which help us get important information," De la Torre said.

That cooperation led to the discovery of two shabu laboratories in Cagayan de Oro and Misamis Oriental two years ago, he said.

Although the laboratories had been shut down, their operators, believed to be Chinese nationals, have remained scot-free.

De la Torre said the vast coastlines of Northern Mindanao had become ideal entry points for smugglers of illegal drugs.

He said the agency's limited resources and personnel were among PDEA's biggest setbacks in running after big-time drugs syndicates. "It will take time but in our assessment, we will be able to address the problem soon," he said.

Aside from shabu, marijuana continues to be trafficked in the region.

De la Torre said the PDEA and the Dangerous Drugs Board had worked together to lure farmers away from cultivating marijuana by giving them alternative livelihood. "If we don't give them other sources of income, it will just be a vicious cycle," he said.

19 villages get more soldiers

TACLOBAN CITY—THE MILITARY IS TAKing the war against communist insurgents to the 19 poorest barangays of the city.

Lt. Col. Prudencio Asto, Task Force Tacloban commander, said soldiers would be deployed to monitor the activities of persons believed to be members or sympathizers of the New People's Army in 11 barangays in Sagkahan District and eight barangays in Magallanes District.

The city has 138 barangays.

Mayor Alfred Romualdez has expressed support for the proposal, but the soldiers would not be fielded until he identifies where they could put up their base, Asto said.

The officer said he had received "raw" information that NPA members were seen in the poor villages. "And, based on our monitoring, people who attend rallies led by some left-leaning groups against the government are mostly residents of these villages," he added.

Roy Chua, chair of Barangay 64 in Sagkahan, said he was informed that certain villages in the district were becoming "havens" of insurgents.

"Thus, I agree that we [must] have some soldiers or policemen in our area, though they must be in civilian clothes and not in uniform," Chua said. His village remains safe from insurgents, he said.

Although he does not consider the NPA threat as serious, Asto said that "based on our intelligence report, the presence of the enemies was detected. They are now in the city due to our continuous operations in the mountains."

Task Force Tacloban was created after soldiers of the 19th Infantry Battalion, then headed by Col. Lope Dagoy, captured Paterno Opo, an alleged top NPA official, in April at a hideout in Nula-Tula, one of the 11 villages in the northern part of the city. *Joey A. Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas*

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Class action suit vs ABC planned

By Nimfa U. Rueda

LOS ANGELES—A GROUP OF FILIPINO-AMERICAN doctors said they plan to file a class action suit against the big ABC television network to rectify a perceived slur against Filipino doctors aired on the popular soap "Desperate Housewives."

"A multimillion-dollar lawsuit for public defamation and damages is in order," said Dr. Eustaquio O. Abay, in an e-mail to California-based Fil-Am lawyer Rodel Rodis. "This is the only way I believe we can compel ABC to make a high-profile apology to the Filipino community."

The doctors and allied Filipino groups said they were not satisfied with the brief apology issued by the network, or with the response they got during an hour-long meeting in New York City on Friday with Robert Mendez, the network's senior vice president for diversity and talent development.

The National Alliance for Filipino Concerns (Nafcon) is demanding that the program broadcast its apology during the show's next episode, conduct cultural sensitivity training workshops for network staff, produce more shows depicting Filipinos and other minority groups in "prominent, positive roles," and support Filipino-American projects that will strengthen diversity awareness.

According to Rico Foz, spokesperson for Nafcon, Mendez had told them that a broadcast apology on the "Desperate Housewives" show was unlikely.

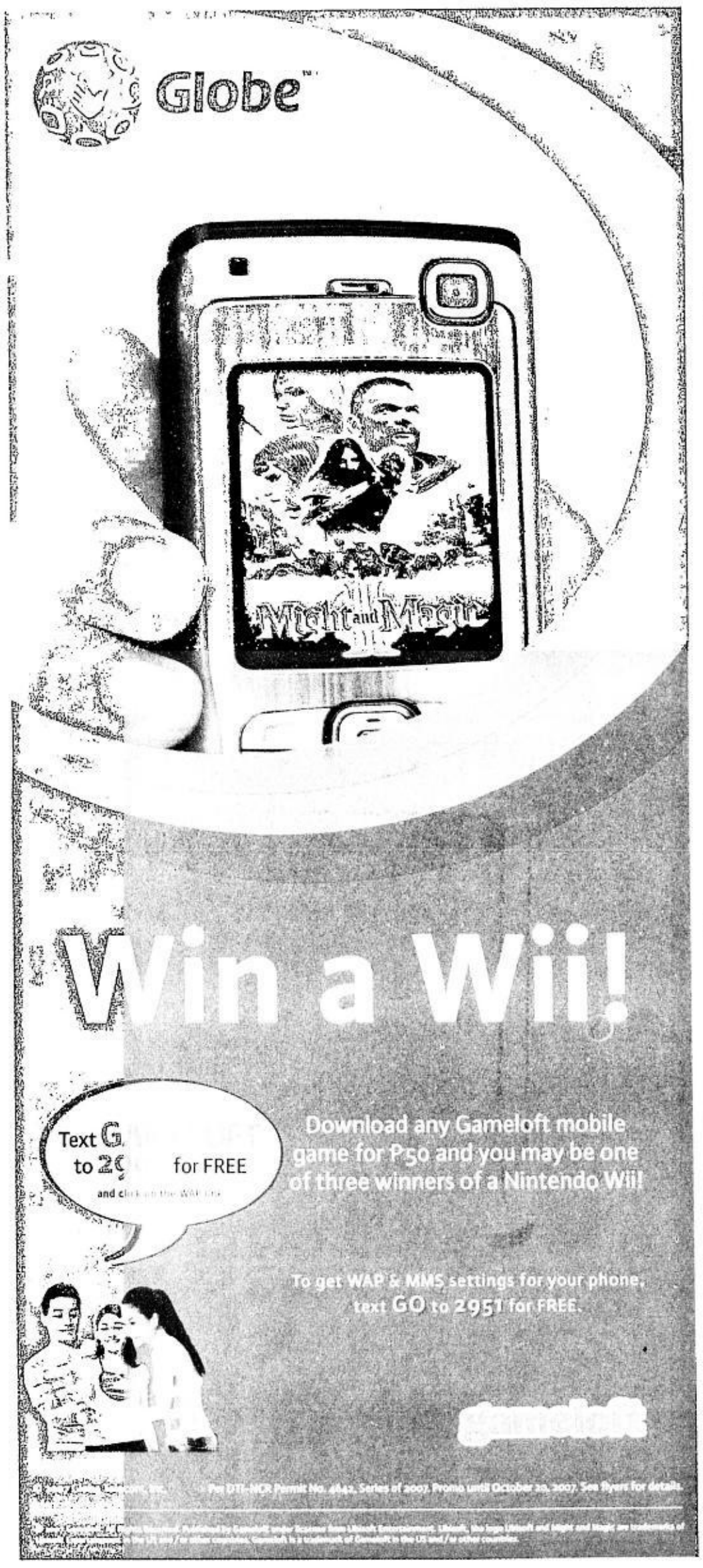
"(He) told us, 'It's going to be tough'" but added he would discuss the demands with the network management, Foz said.

"I don't think they [ABC] are taking us seriously," added Foz.

Abay said the remark made in a recent episode by the character played by actress Teri Hatcher tarnished the reputation of Fil-Am doctors educated in the Philippines.

In the controversial scene, Hatcher's character tells her doctor: "Okay, before we go any further, can I check those diplomas? Because I would just like to make sure they are not from some med school in the Philippines."

The online petition against the controversial remark in "Desperate Housewives" has now generated over 100,000 signatories.



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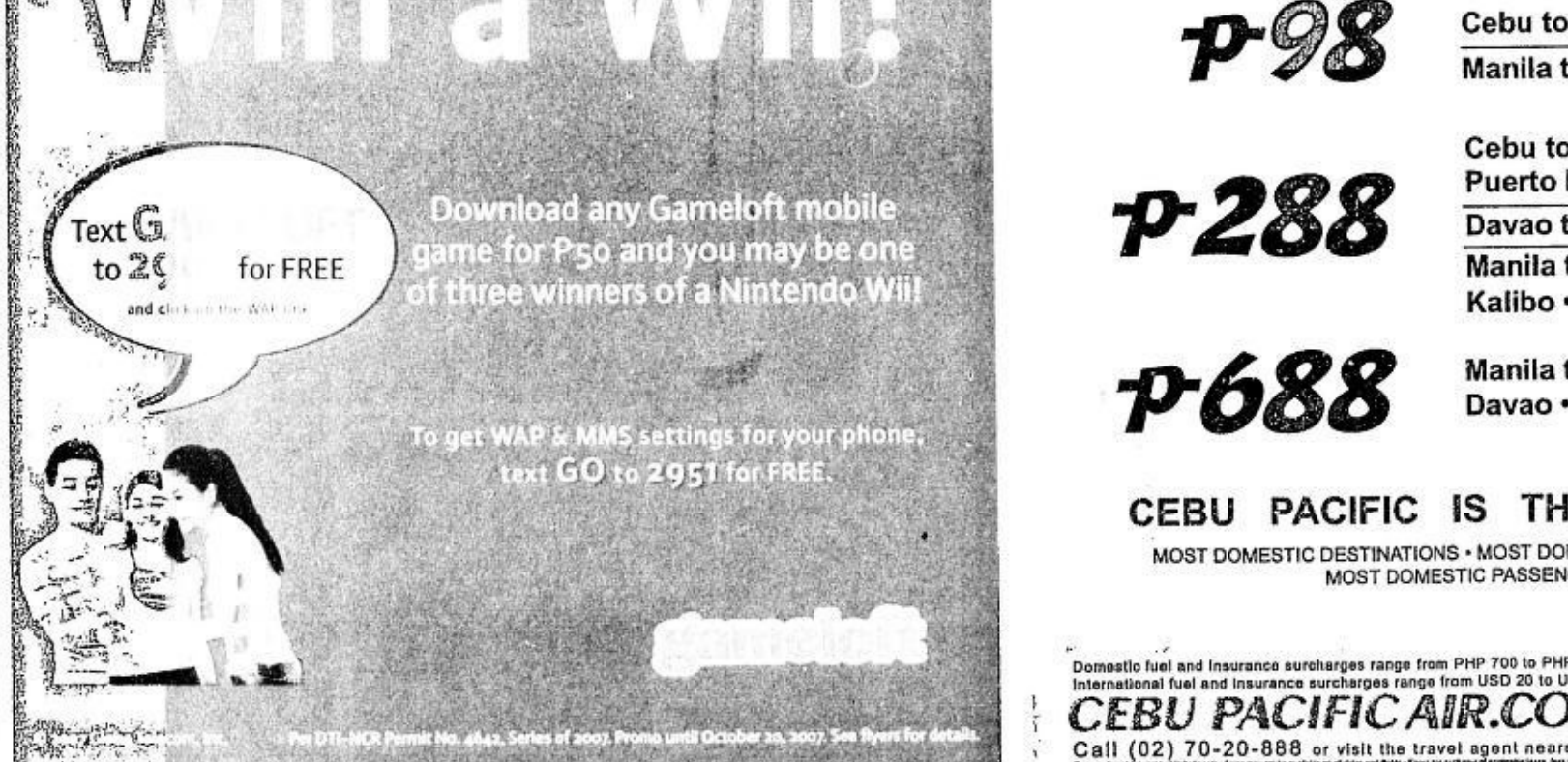

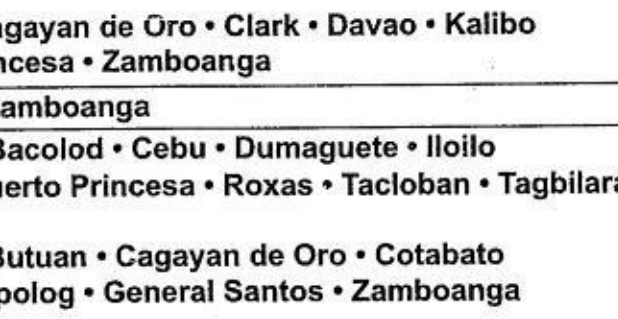

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Metro Manila garbage crisis looms

Rodriguez landfill closed starting today

By Kristine L. Alave

METRO MANILA MAY BE FACING A POTENTIAL garbage crisis as Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares III has ordered the closure of the 14-hectare landfill in the town of Rodriguez beginning today.

In a statement issued yesterday, Ynares III said he has already informed the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo of the provincial board's decision to close the facility.

He added that the landfill, according to provincial engineering and environmental consultants, was already "saturated and used up" and needs to be shut down. He added that further dumping of garbage in the area might trigger accidents and could pose a risk to lives and property in the vicinity.

Instead of the 14-ha garbage dump, Rizal province could use the adjacent 19-ha landfill, Ynares suggested.

The governor admitted that the decision would pose problems to officials in Metro Manila. He stressed, however, that they should not be surprised by the closure order as they had been notified in the past that the 14-ha dump has already reached its capacity.

Cuerpo, meanwhile, said that while he would abide by Ynares' order, he was sure that Metro Manila mayors would appeal the governor's decision.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando could not be reached for comment yesterday.

The smaller landfill accommodates all the garbage from the 16 cities and one municipality that comprise Metro Manila. According to MMDA data, the metropolis produces about 8,000 cubic meters of waste daily.

Cuerpo said the municipality was "very disappointed" over the governor's closure order, noting that they were not consulted on the matter. He also accused Ynares of "favoring the landfill contractor at the expense of the Rodriguez residents."

He added that the 19-ha garbage facility still lacked environmental and municipal permits to operate. Ynares had confirmed that the facility has a pending application for an En-

METRO/ A28

SEEING PINK RYAN LIM
Pink was the color of the day yesterday at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City as hundreds joined the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, a nationwide activity held annually to heighten awareness about the disease.

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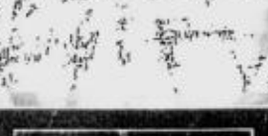
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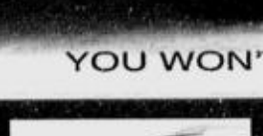
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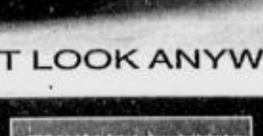
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BLAST FROM THE PAST

Postcards tell of Manila's rich history

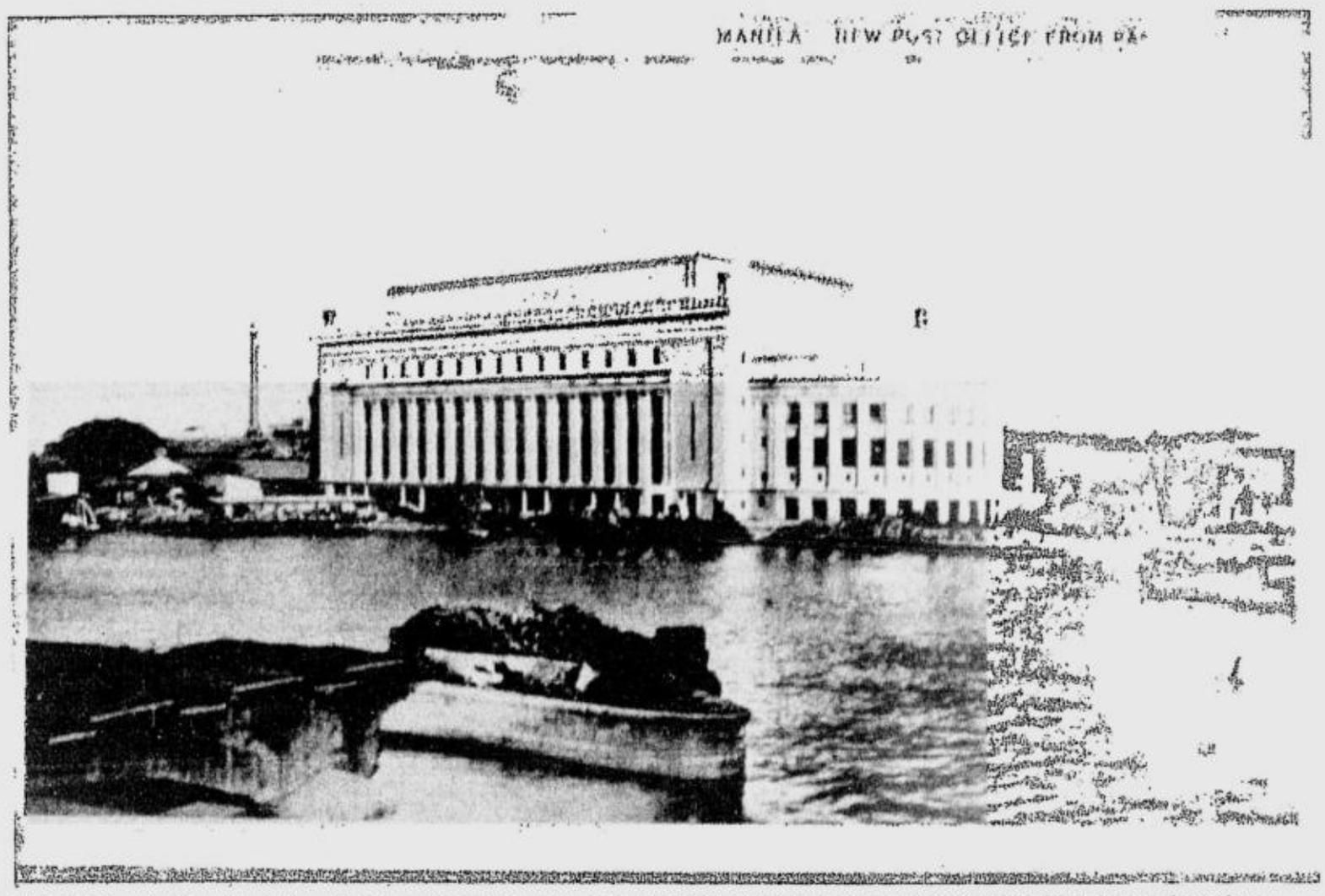
By Allison W. Lopez

RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF Manila will be transported back in time when they view an exhibit of 27 enlarged postcards currently on display at the newly reopened Museo ng Maynila on South Boulevard, Ermita.

Titled "Maynila Noon: The Curt Teich Postcards Collection," the exhibit offers a glimpse into the city's past through never before seen images taken between 1922 and 1949.

Organized by the Manila Historical and Heritage Commission (MHHC) which manages the museum housed at the old Army Navy Club building, the exhibit was supposed to open some years back. But it was delayed when the MHHC became inactive, commission secretariat member Gemma Cruz-Araneta, former tourism secretary, said.

The project finally pushed through when Mayor Alfredo Lim recently revived both the Museo and the MHHC.



THE NEW post office of the City of Manila as viewed from across the Pasig River. Manileños can relieve the city's historic past through an ongoing exhibit featuring 27 never before seen postcards from the Curt Teich Postcards Archives. PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

Rich past

"Manila is the only city that shows all the periods in our history—the pre-hispanic, Spanish and then American. Legacies from the past like archeological sites in Arroceros, Spanish edifices in Intramuros and the American period buildings have to be conserved, that is why our heritage is now also an equal concern of the commission," Lim said.

The pictures, which were donated by the Curt Teich Company of Chicago, have never before been shown nor published in the Philippines.

They were taken from the Curt Teich Postcards Archives, the largest public collection of postcards in the United States. The company was the world's largest printer of view and advertising postcards from 1898 to 1978.

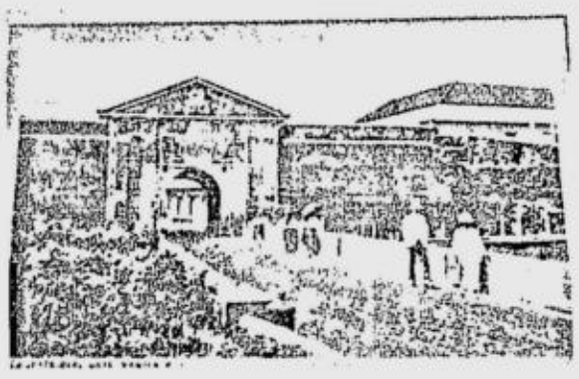
The company opened business in Manila in 1898, right after American troops arrived in the country. In many of the pictures, the United States flag is seen flying over architectural landmarks that had once symbolized Spanish supremacy.

Immortalized

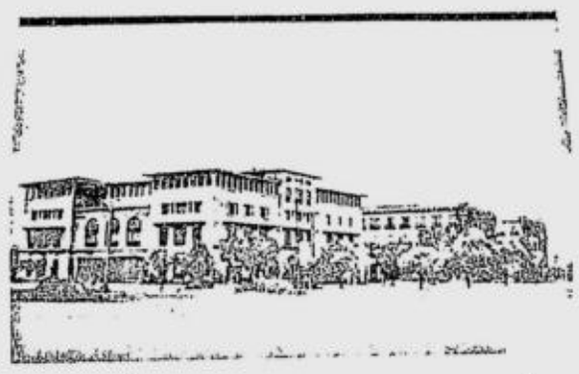
Manila's cobblestone streets, parks, churches, hotels, office buildings and schools were later immortalized on postcards printed for the Philippine Education Company, an American bookstore in Manila.

Some of the old structures that are on display in the ongoing exhibit are the Post Office, Manila Cathedral, Manila Chronicle office, De La Salle College (now University) and Philippine Women's University.

Visitors can also see historic spots like Fort Santiago, Escolta and Avenida Rizal, Plaza Goiti, Parian Gate and the Old Bilibid Prison where heroes like Gen. Macario Sakay were imprisoned and hanged.



THE PUERTA Real Gate in Intramuros, the Walled City of Manila.



THE ARMY and Navy and Elks Club building, now known as the old Army Navy Club, in Ermita.

Lim said the exhibit would be "a source of information for today's young architects, artists, photographers and students."

"We have to work on heritage awareness. These historic buildings are already endangered. That's why we tell private property owners that there's money in heritage. These structures need not be demolished," said Araneta.

Pride of place

The MHHC, she added, wants to inculcate a "pride of place" among Manileños, starting in the barangay level, as well as among students of public and private school and universities.

According to Araneta, many of Manila's heritage sites should be restored and given "adaptive reuse."

Cultural tourism

"I hope we can convert the heritage resources of Manila into a unique tourist destination. We should really go for cultural tourism," she said.

The exhibit, which can be viewed free of charge until the end of the year, is just the first of many others at the Museo ng Maynila, said Araneta.

Though space is limited in the building which is also in need of repairs, the Museo aims to be a "center for art and education" in the capital city with its exhibits of paintings, photos, sculptures and craft; workshops with the "Agos Kulay ng Maynila" group of artists; and lectures sponsored by the city's schools and universities.

Also to be revived are the "tertulias," cultural gatherings usually held in mansions in Intramuros from the end of the 19th century until the start of World War II.

Although Manila's noble past has been immortalized through the photographs on display at the ongoing exhibit, it is hoped that future generations will have more than just images to remember the city's proud history by.

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MANILA Mayor Alfredo Lim looks at a scale model on display at the exhibit. Beside him is Gemma Cruz-Araneta, a member of the Manila Historical and Heritage Commission.

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- Delightful/dreadful finds on your way to work?

JUST TEXT SMS: ccall name/age/location <message>
MMS: <insert photo> ccall name/age/location <caption/message>
0918-8-CITIZEN (0918-824-8946)
P.S. Please don't send tips on criminal activities and scams. Call the police.
INQUIRER

Cop faces charge for death of 15-year-old boy

By Allison W. Lopez

AN AVIATION POLICEMAN IS SET TO BE charged today with murder and child abuse for his alleged involvement in the killing of a 15-year-old boy in Manila last month.

Case investigator PO2 Jaime Gonzales of the Manila Police District homicide division said PO2 Julio Ezzey Marquez, who is assigned at the 1st Police Center for Aviation Security, was tagged by witnesses as one of those who mauled Bernardo Bandejas, a resident of Bacoor, Cavite, on Sept. 29 at the corner of Estrada and Opal Streets in San Andres.

Bandejas was with two other youngsters when they were arrested by barangay authorities for reportedly stealing a mountain bike. Gonzales said the boys were kicked and beaten with sticks before they were taken to the Dagonoy police station.

Policemen, however, refused to take custody of the boys without a medical certificate.

Bandejas was later confined in a hospital for severe injuries where he died due to "traumatic head injuries."

Gonzales said Marquez is in the custody of his superior at the Aviation Command base, but would be brought to court by the police.

Another suspect, Joel Hizo, 44, a barangay watchman, has already been charged in the city prosecutor's office.

EDWIN BACASMAS

UNFINISHED EXCAVATION WORK
Alicia Estrellado of Balut, Tondo, Manila writes: "Unfinished MWSS digging for more than a month already on H. Lopez Boulevard corner Infanta Street has been causing so much traffic in the area. Please help us get the attention of the MWSS so they can finish their work."

Drainage problem

THE DRAINAGE system of a manufacturing firm tapped to the one in our subdivision is causing mini floods in the area apart from emitting a foul smell. Who is in charge? Help!!!

ARNOLD CASUYON, 67, Talipapa, Quezon City

Down with streamer

I WOULD like to call the attention of Rep. Bingbong Crisologo or his supporters. His streamer covers the traffic light of Roxas corner Mayon Streets. Pity the motorist who can't see the lights.

LILY S., 46, Quezon City

METRO Citizen's call
0918-8985566

Street or car lot?

I'M CALLING on the MMDA to please clear San Antonio Street in Barangay Pio del Pilar of obstructions. Here, you can find several vehicles and dog cages on the street. As a result, San Antonio now looks like a car lot.

EDWARD OLARTE, 39, Taylor Street, Makati City

An accident waiting to happen

NOVA Transport buses plying the Commonwealth area are all driven by reckless drivers. It's an accident waiting to happen.

GREGGY MINA, 39, Quezon City

METROBRIEFS

Fake rubber shoes seized

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has seized P1.5 million worth of counterfeit rubber shoes in Pasay City. NBI Director Nestor Mantaring said that agents of the Intellectual Property Rights Division recently confiscated 840 pairs of fake Vans rubber shoes during a raid on stockrooms of Shoelink Trading at Harrison Shoe Plaza. IPRD chief Elfren Meneses identified the company's owners as Yolly Sy and Benny Sy. They were charged with violation of Sec. 155 (trademark infringement) in relation to Sec. 170 or Republic Act No. 8293, otherwise known as the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines.

Allison W. Lopez

City tightens watch on dengue cases

THE LAS PIÑAS City government has ordered a tighter watch on dengue cases in the city with more rains and typhoons expected in the coming months. Mayor Vergel Aguilar directed the City Health Office and the Environment and Sanitation Center to intensify cleaning operations to rid Las Piñas of possible breeding grounds for dengue-carrying mosquitoes. "I ask all residents to take the necessary precautions against a possible outbreak of dengue and other water-borne diseases," he said in a statement issued recently.

Julie M. Aurelio

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF ALAMINOS
Province of Pangasinan

NOTICE

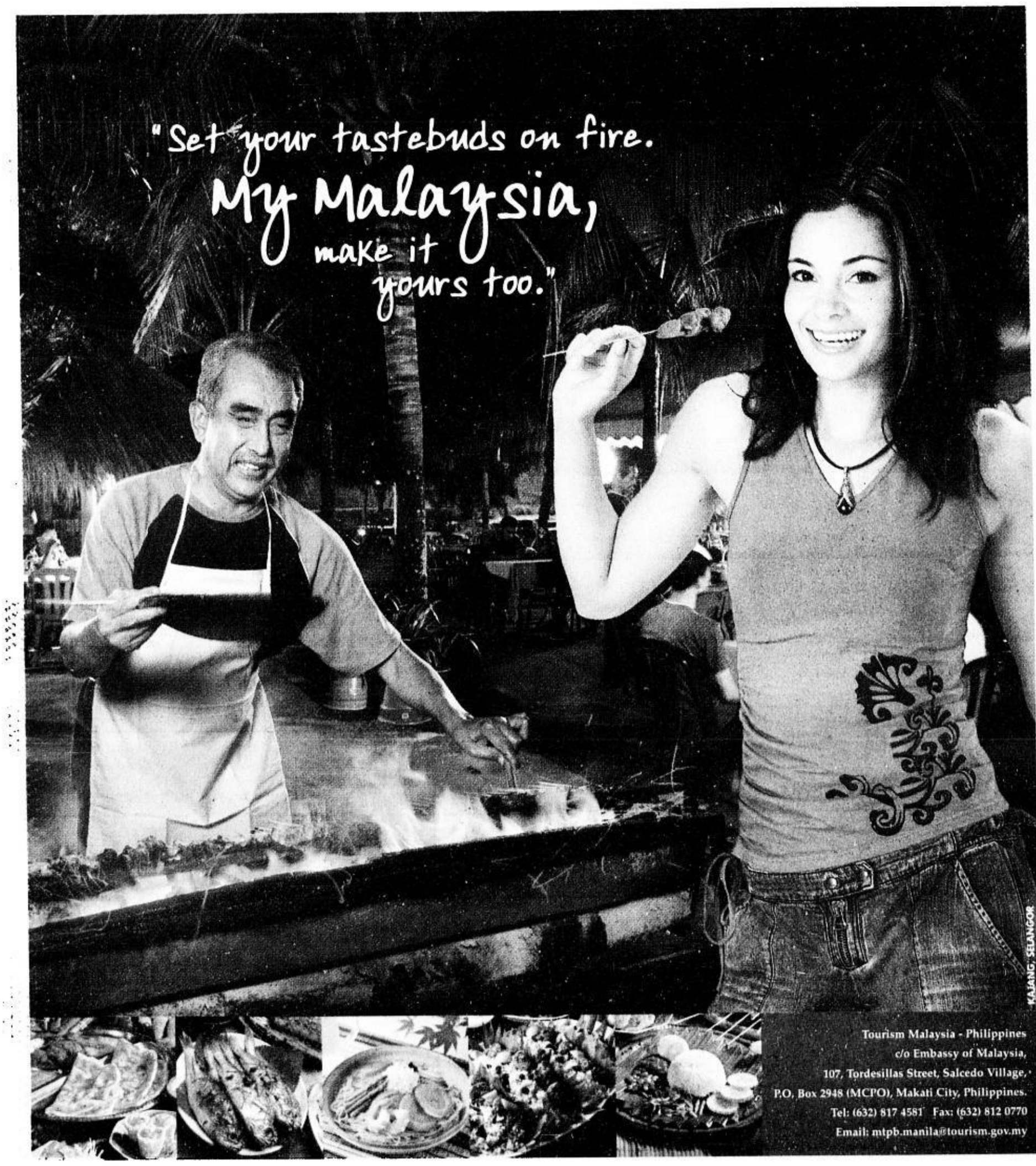
The City Government of Alaminos invites interested parties to submit their proposals relative to the implementation of the following projects:

1. **Solid Waste Processing Plant**
2. **Potable Water Supply for Bulk Selling to the Alaminos Water District for Distribution**
3. **Establishment of Modular Sewage and Sewerage Processing Plant**
4. **Supply of Various Heavy Equipment**

Proponents are hereby directed to indicate in their proposal 1) funding options; 2) mode of implementation; and 3) other options for consideration by the City.

Please submit your proposal to the City Planning and Development Office on or before November 30, 2007.

ENGR. EDUARDO A. GARCIA
Contact Nos. : 0927-878-0193
(075) 654-1099



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Malaysia is the definitive food lover's paradise. From north to south, a mouth-watering new dish is waiting to be discovered in every city, town and village. Such a diversity of tastes and flavours awaits you here... from explosive, hot and sour *asam laksa* - loaded with lime and chillis to the mildly aromatic briyani rice. From Malaysia's signature spicy, nutty satay to fine gourmet selections from around the world. There's only one place on earth where meals are prepared with such a passion, and cooked to perfection. Here in Malaysia, eating is an obsession.

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Coming soon: Free movies for Manila's elderly

Lim, theater owners in negotiations

By Allison W. Lopez

EXPECT MORE SENIOR CITIzens in Manila to make a beeline for the city's movie houses soon.

Mayor Alfredo Lim announced last week that the city government was working out an arrangement with theater owners in Manila which would entitle the elderly to watch movies for free on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Lim made the announcement in line with the celebration of "Elderly Filipino Week" (Linggo ng Katandaang Filipino).

According to the mayor, those who want to avail of the privilege should present their identification card issued by Manila's Office of Senior Citizens' Affairs.

Free medical and dental services in government offices, hospitals and clinics are already available for cardholders.

Lim also called on establishment owners to honor the Osca IDs. Those who fail to do so would be charged with violating the law, he warned.

Lim said that Republic Act No. 9257, which entitles senior citizens to certain discounts, should be strictly implemented in the city following complaints that some drugstores ignore the law which states that the elderly should be a given a 20 percent discount on medical purchases.

The mayor urged elderly residents to immediately report to him violators of RA 9257, also known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens' Act."

Aside from drugstores, recreational establishments and transportation facilities are covered by the law mandating a 20-percent discount for people aged 60 or more.

LYN RILLON

OLD, BUT NOT OUT
Norma Alcantara and other elderly but still sprightly women, all members of the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs in Pasay City, dance to a lively beat during the recent celebration of Elderly Filipinos Week held at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City.

Schoolchildren told to take a hike for road safety

By Julie M. Aurelio

STUDENTS OF THE P. ZAMORA Elementary School in Pasay City went for a walk last week as part of their lesson on road safety.

During a four-block "hike," they were taught about walking in the streets "the proper and safe way."

"I always remember to look both ways first before crossing the road because I am afraid of getting hit by a car," Jana, a Grade 6 student, said in Filipino.

According to Dr. Rafael Consunji, president of Safe Kids Philippines, kids need to be taught how to avoid danger while walking to and from school.

"We should not take it for granted that children really know how to walk in and cross the street," he said.

Consunji's group, along with FedEx Express, spearheaded last Wednesday's "Walk this Way" program with nearly 300 Pasay City students, in line with the celebration of International Walk to School Day.

The program, now on its fourth year, is being implemented in 100 schools nationwide.

"The Philippines is number one in Asia when it comes to injured children. While other countries' figures are decreasing, ours are going up," Consunji said.

He pointed out that over 100,000 Filipino kids are hurt every year. Of the figure, one-third accounts for injuries sustained while walking in the streets.

Citing a study, Consunji said at least one in five children was hit while walking and 70 percent of the time, the vehicle involved was a bicycle or a motorcycle.

He identified the "3 Es" that schools and local governments should consider in making roads safer for children: Education, engineering and enforcement.

Engineering includes instruments like road signs and pedestrian lanes in school zones and streets, as well as sidewalks.

During Wednesday's activity, Safe Kids and FedEx donated P10,000 worth of road signs each to the P. Zamora and the P. Burgos Elementary Schools to create a "virtual safe zone" for their students.

Consunji added they were also coordinating with local governments to make road safety a concern not just in schools but also in the streets.

Danilo Galera, a teacher of P. Burgos, said they try to incorporate road safety into everyday subjects like Hekasi and Character Education.

"I think this program also makes barangay officials aware of hazards on the roads, like open manholes. That way, they fix the manholes, lessening the chances of kids injuring themselves," the teacher said in Filipino.

To ensure that children take to heart the importance of road safety, Safe Kids listed some tips:

- Walk, do not run into the street.
- Look left, right and left again before crossing the street.
- Do not cross the street alone if you are younger than 10 years old.
- Use sidewalks.
- Walk facing road traffic if there are no sidewalks.
- Cross using available traffic and pedestrian signals.
- Dress in light colors and wear reflective material so drivers can easily see you.
- Avoid walking or biking at night.
- Do not play in driveways, streets, parking lots or yards that are not fenced and are near a street.
- Be aware of signals indicating a moving car: Rear lights, exhaust smoke, a roaring engine, and turning wheels.
- Use extra caution when crossing multiple-lane, high-speed streets.
- Always walk in groups.

Metro Manila garbage crisis looms

From page A25

vironmental Compliance Certificate.

In July, the town of Rodriguez passed an ordinance raising the landfill levies. According to the three-page ordinance, tipping fees were raised to about P800 to P1,000, from the previous P439 per truck.

Metro Manila mayors, through the MMDA, had asked Cuerpo to reconsider his decision, saying they could not afford to pay the higher fees. Both parties later agreed to discuss the ordinance before implementing it fully.

Cuerpo explained that the additional income from the fees would be used to improve the landfill's leachate treatment. It would also fund the municipality's projects, such as street lighting and social services projects.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
Regional Office No. IV
Los Baños, Laguna

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Equipment for Project Rationalized Upgrading of DOST RSTLs.

1. The Department of Science and Technology Region IV (DOST IV), through the Government Appropriations Act (GAA) 2007 intends to apply the sum of Two Million Seven Hundred Five Thousand Pesos **Php 2,705,000.00** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Equipment for the Project Rationalized Upgrading of DOST RSTLs. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening

LOT 1 – Physico-Chemical Laboratory
ABC – Php 1,160,000.00

List of Equipment	QTY
Analytical Balance	1
Deionizer	1
Digital Buretle	3
Fumehood	1
Water bath with Magnetic Stirrer System	1
Forced Draft or Mechanical Convection Oven	1
Stop Watch	3
Dispensette	2

LOT 2 – Microbiological Analyses
ABC – Php 1,545,000.00

List of Equipment	Qty
Autoclave	1
Vortex Mixer	1
Colony Counter	1
Pipettor — 100 to 1000 uL	2
— 500 to 5000 uL	2
Biosafety Cabinet	1
Magnetic Stirrer	1
Low-Temperature Incubator (Refrigerated Incubator)	1
Turbidometr	1
Bacticenerator	1
Pipette Filler/Dispenser	1
Filtration Manifold System With Accessories	1
Refrigerator (General Purpose)	2

2. DOST now invites sealed Bids from Bidders for the procurement of Equipment for the Project "Rationalized Upgrading of DOST RSTLs." Delivery of GOODS is required within 60 calendar days upon receipt of the Notice to Proceed. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from DOST IV and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on October 17-23, 2007.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 2,300.00 for Lot 1 and Php 3,000.00 for Lot 2. The method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. DOST IV shall hold a Pre-Bid Conference with interested parties on October 24, 2007.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before November 20, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on November 20, 2007 at 9:40 a.m. at the following address: DOST Region IV, Jamboree Road, Timugan, Los Baños, Laguna. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. DOST IV reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY REGION IV
BY:

(Sgd.) Lydia S. Mangulat, Chairperson, DOST IV-BAC
Jamboree Road, Timugan, Los Baños, Laguna
lydiamangulat@yahoo.com
(049) 536-4390 / 4997/5005 TF
website: region4-dost.gov.ph
(PDI – October 8, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL SOUTHERN MINDANAO CAMPUS
Sto. Niño, Tugbok District, Davao City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL-SMC**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	: A.	COMPLETION OF MULTI-PURPOSE GYMNASIUM
	B.	CONTINUATION OF UNFINISHED PERIMETER FENCE
Location		PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL SOUTHERN MINDANAO CAMPUS, BARANGAY STO. NIÑO, TUGBOK DISTRICT, DAVAO CITY
Brief Description	: A.	COMPLETION OF THE UNFINISHED WORKS IN THE MULTI-PURPOSE GYMNASIUM
	B.	INSTALLATION OF CHB, BARS AND RAILINGS
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	: A.	**P11,799,000.00**
	B.	**1,000,000.00**
Contract Duration	: A.	6 MONTHS B. 2 MONTHS

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicale to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOIs) including Application for Eligibility	October 16-25, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	October 16-25, 2007
3. Eligibility Check	October 26, 2007
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 30, 2007
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 8-15, 2007
6. Pre-bid Conference	November 16, 2007 – 9:00 AM
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	November 29, 2007 – 9:00 AM

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at **Philippine Science High School-SMC, Sto. Niño, Tugbok District, Davao City**, upon their submission of an LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **PhP2,000.00**. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php10,000.00**.

The PSHS-SMC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) **MARIO A. GIGAYON**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Oct. 8 & 15, 2007)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Date/Time		Non-Refundable Fee
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
200 Units Passbook Printers Plus: Four (4) Years Maintenance Package	P9,116,000.00	October 18, 2007 2:00 PM	October 31, 2007 1:00 PM	P 4,600.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the Procurement Department starting October 8, 2007 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at Procurement Department Bidding Room; 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila.

Please address your queries to the Head-Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee, or call 405-7370; 551-0000 locals 2290 & 2293.

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - Oct. 8, 2007)

A US HUMVEE vehicle drives up in the Tagab district north of Kabul on September 2007. Six years after the first US bombs began falling on Afghanistan's Taliban government and its al-Qaida guests, America is planning for a long stay. AP

After 6 years, US to stay longer in Afghanistan

BAGRAM, AFGHANISTAN—SIX years after the first US bombs began falling on Afghanistan's Taliban government and its al-Qaida guests, America is planning for a long stay.

Originally envisioned as a temporary home for invading US forces, the sprawling American base at Bagram, a former Soviet outpost in the shadow of the towering Hindu Kush mountains, is growing in size by nearly a third.

Today the US has about 25,000 troops in the country, and other Nato nations contribute another 25,000, more than three times the number of international troops in the country four years ago, when the Taliban appeared defeated.

The Islamic militia has come roaring back since then, and 2007 has been the battle's bloodiest year yet.

Barnett R. Rubin, an expert on Afghanistan at New York University, said US leaders in Washington "utterly failed" to understand what was needed to consolidate that original Taliban rout, which started with air strikes on Oct. 7, 2001, less than a month after the Sept. 11 attacks in Washington and New York.

"The Bush administration did not see Afghanistan as a long-term commitment, and its leaders deceived themselves into thinking they had won an irreversible victory. They did not consider Afghanistan important and always intended to focus on Iraq," he said.

"Now the US and international community have fallen way behind, and the Taliban are winning strategically, even if we defeat them in every tactical engagement," he added.

At Bagram, new barracks will help accommodate the record number of US troops in the country.

"We've grown in our commitment to Afghanistan by putting another brigade (of troops) here, and with that we know that we're going to have an enduring presence," said Army Col. Jonathan Ives. "So this is going to become a long-term base for us, whether that means five years, 10 years—we don't know."

Insurgents have launched more than 100 suicide attacks this year, an unprecedented pace, including a bombing in Kabul on Saturday against a US convoy that killed an American soldier and four Afghan civilians—the third suicide blast in Kabul in a week.

More than 5,100 people—mostly militants—have died in insurgency related violence so far this year, according to an Associated Press count based on figures from Afghan and Western officials. That far outpaces last year's violence, when the AP count topped 4,000 for the entire year.

Some 87 US troops have also died so far this year, also a record pace. About 90 US soldiers were killed in all of last year.

Wide areas of the south—in Helmand, Kandahar and Uruzgan provinces—are controlled by the Taliban, and the fighting is migrating north, into Ghazni province—where 23 South Koreans were kidnapped in July—and Wardak, right next door to Kabul, the capital.

Osama bin Laden, whose presence here was a trigger for the US-led attack, is still at large, possibly hiding in the mountains along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

And Afghan farmers this year grew a record amount of opium poppy, prompting officials to draw up plans to use the military in drug interdiction missions against traffickers. *AP*

Real heart for miracle Malaysia girl

KUALA LUMPUR—A MALAYSIAN GIRL WHO had to lug around a battery weighing nine kg to power her mechanical heart is making progress after receiving a real heart, a report said Sunday.

Tee Hui Yee, 14, received the transplant in a marathon operation at the National Heart Institute on Friday immediately after her body rejected a first organ.

Mohamed Ezani Mohamad Taib, clinical director with the heart institute, said Tee was making good progress after her operation.

"When the doctors asked her which areas she felt pain, she was able to point and was able to move her feet and hands," he was quoted as saying by the Sunday Star newspaper.

He said tests showed the heart was functioning normally.

"I was relieved and happy to see the progress, as I really got scared when the first transplant failed."

Organ donation is rare in Malaysia amid cultural and religious concerns but religious authorities are now stepping up a campaign to encourage donors.

Tee was Malaysia's second recipient of a mechanical heart after undergoing an operation to insert the device last September that helps pump blood to the whole body.

She had been making appeals to Malaysians for a real heart as the device would stop functioning next September. *AFP*

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MANUEL IGNO LIM
AKA: BRUCE MANLIM, MANNY

ROSEMIN GRACE N. PAREJA
AKA: GRACE, GRACIA, ROSE

WARRANTS OF ARREST has been issued against Manuel Igno Lim & Rosemin Grace N. Pareja of Audio-Lab Corp. / Smart Gadgets / Smart Image – Photography (USA) both of **64 Mt.Vernon St, Filinvest-1 Homes**, Capitol District, Batasan Hills, Quezon City & w/ USA address at:

456 EL Dorado Drive, Daly City, CA 94015 USA (California)

whose pictures appear above by the Regional Trial Court - Branch 218, Nat'l Capital Judicial Region, Quezon City w/ **Criminal Case no.** Q – 07 - 146961.

Another Warrant of Arrest of Manuel Lim w/ **Criminal Case no.** 139516 issued by Quezon City - MTC, Branch 42 for Violation of PD -1866. Pls direct any informations leading to their arrest to Phil. Nat'l Police - J.Garcia (0905) 360 - 4783

Rewards will be given to any information leading to their successful arrest.

(PDI - Oct. 7 & 8, 2007)

Nobel prize season opens

STOCKHOLM—THE 2007 NOBEL prize season opens Monday (Tuesday in Manila) with the announcement of the medicine prize, as the fight against climate change is tipped for the Nobel Peace Prize and speculation is rife for the literature award.

As always the Nobel prize committees are keeping mum ahead of the much-awaited announcements, leaving observers to engage in a wild guessing game.

For the peace prize, to be announced in Oslo on Friday, a total of 181 individuals and organizations are known to have been nominated.

The battle against global warming is seen as a strong candidate for the prestigious award, with former US vice president Al Gore and Canadian Inuit Sheila Watt-Cloutier believed to be contenders.

Gore has brought the issue to the top of the international agenda with his 2006 film "An Inconvenient Truth," while Watt-Cloutier, the former head of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, has campaigned to draw attention to climate change in the Arctic.

Climate change has a direct impact on world peace, according to observers who note that humanitarian efforts around the world will amount to nothing, if low-lying countries are wiped out by rising sea levels and massive waves of refugees storm into others.

Last year, the honors went to Bangladeshi microcredit pioneer Muhammad Yunus and his Grameen Bank.

One of the Nobel science prizes could also go to work on climate change.

"Atmospheric chemistry and physics and some of the work that's done to expose some of the mechanisms underlying global climate change are terribly important and it may very well be that one year or another there will be a piece of work that will deserve a Nobel," Donald Kennedy, the editor in chief of the respected US journal Science, said.

GORE, tipped for the Nobel Peace Prize in global warming campaign. AFP

Laureates receive a gold medal, a diploma and 10 million Swedish kronor ($1.53 million) which can be split between up to three winners per prize. *AFP*

Last will and testament of prizes creator

STOCKHOLM—SWEDISH INVENTOR and scholar Alfred Nobel created the Nobel prizes in his will, written in 1895, bequeathing his fortune to a fund that would honor "those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind."

He decreed that the bulk of his estate, derived mainly from his invention of dynamite in 1866, should be invested in "safe securities."

As a result, after Nobel died in San Remo, Italy, in 1896, some 31.5 million Swedish kronor, or about 1.5 billion kronor ($141 million) in today's currency, were used to create the Nobel Foundation.

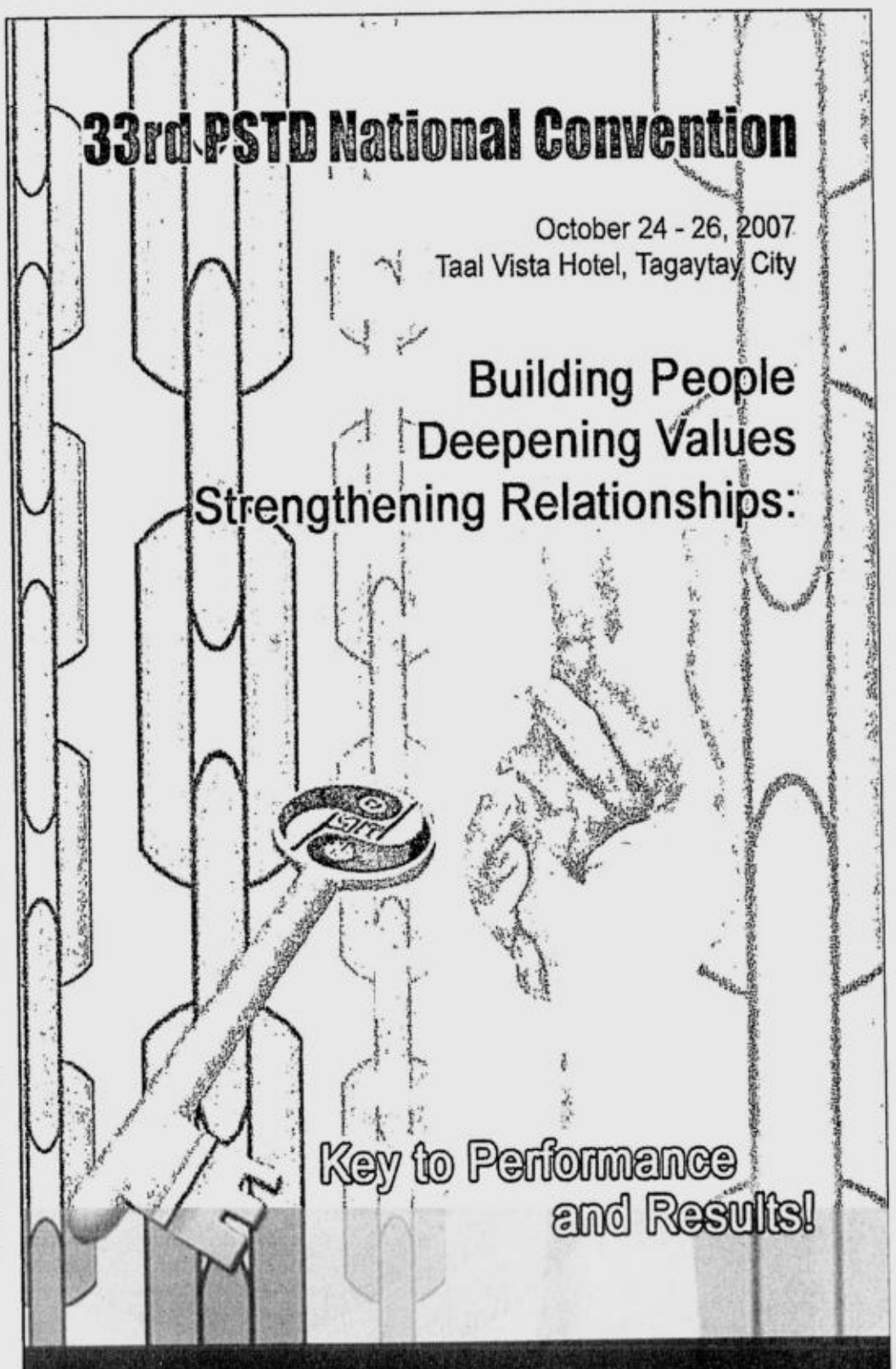
Nobel's will specified that the prizes be divided into five equal parts, apportioned as follows: "One part to the person who shall have made the most important discovery or invention within the field of physics; one part to the person who shall have made the most important chemical discovery or improvement; one part to the person who shall have made the most important discovery within the domain of physiology or medicine; one part to the person who shall have produced in the field of literature the most outstanding work in an ideal direction; and one part to the person who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

But when Nobel died childless and the will was read, the contents surprised many, including his own family. The document was challenged by two nephews who tried to have it declared null and void, and even King Oscar II of Sweden opposed Nobel's wishes, saying they were not "patriotic minded."

Adding to the confusion, Nobel had not appointed an executor for the testament, nor had he consulted the various institutions he had assigned to award the prizes to ensure that they were willing to undertake the task.

After more than three years of haggling, the Nobel Foundation was created to manage the capital in Nobel's estate and the five institutions agreed to award the prizes as Nobel had wished.

Since 1901, the year the first Nobel prizes were awarded, the Foundation has funded the prestigious awards created by their namesake. The Nobel Prize for Economics, the only award not included in Nobel's will, is funded by the Swedish Central Bank, which created the prize at its tercentenary in 1968. *AFP*



While you can take several steps to help your organization survive in the fast changing times, building your people can get your organization to the top! Know all about these in the 33rd Philippine Society for Training and Development National Convention. All Human Resource and Training practitioners and all those who posses utmost passion for learning are invited to learn more about this year's theme, "Building People, Deepening Values, Strengthening Relationships: Key to Performance and Results!" Topics include Organizational Change, 7 Centers of Human Power, New Workplace Learning Methods, and many more. The PSTD convention proudly features renowned speakers and distinguished executives from the country's top organizations today! For registration and inquiries, call PSTD Secretariat at 813-9072 or 814-0372. You may also email secretariat@pstd.org or pstdsecretariat@yahoo.com.

website: www.pstd.org

Russian journalist's murder commemorated amid outrage

MOSCOW—CAMPAIGNERS were to mark the first anniversary of the murder of Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya in Moscow on Sunday amid mounting international calls for her killers to be brought to justice.

Her family were to mourn by her grave in a cemetery on the outskirts of Moscow, while human rights campaigners and opposition leaders planned to hold demonstrations in the city center.

Politkovskaya, a mother of two, was gunned down outside her home on Oct. 7 last year. She was a fierce critic of President Vladimir Putin and made her name with stinging reports about Russia's war in Chechnya.

Russian investigators have announced a series of arrests, including of an officer with the FSB secret service and a former Chechen politician, but the murder remains unsolved.

In recent weeks, the investigation appears to have faltered. There have been numerous leaks about the inquiry to Russian newspapers and some of the people arrested earlier have been released.

Her former editor at the Novaya Gazeta newspaper said that Russian security forces were deliberately undermining the inquiry and accused a secret service officer of arranging her execution-style murder.

Novaya Gazeta has reactivated Politkovskaya's work phone number and planned to publish dozens of messages of support left on her answering machine in its Monday edition.

Reporters Without Borders, a Paris-based international media watchdog, said last week that recent developments in the investigation raised doubts "about the will of the authorities to really solve this murder."

More than 60 international celebrities and dignitaries signed a petition published in Saturday's edition of The Times in London calling on Russia to bring Politkovskaya's murderers to justice.

Signatories included Desmond Tutu, the South African Nobel peace laureate, British playwright Harold Pinter, US actress Susan Sarandon and French philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy.

The anniversary of Politkovskaya's killing coincides with Putin's 55th birthday and a large demonstration in the president's honor was due to be held by a pro-Kremlin youth group in the center of the Russian capital.

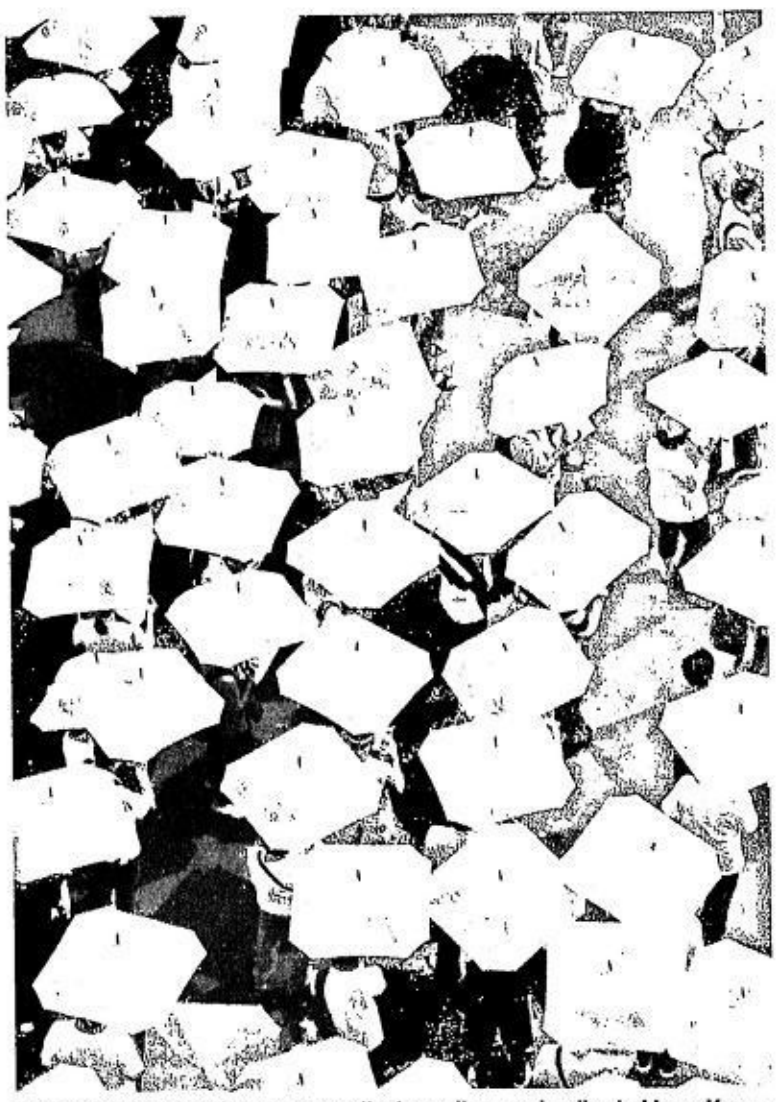
Immediately after the killing, Putin said her role was "insignificant." Meanwhile, leaders of The Other Russia, an opposition group, were to lay flowers outside Politkovskaya's apartment building and opposition presidential contender Mikhail Kasyanov planned to hold a rally.

Human Rights Watch organized a photo exhibition in a square near the Kremlin of images of the war in Chechnya and planned to hold a candlelight vigil in Politkovskaya's honor.

Since her slaying, Russian and international campaigners have been deeply critical of the authorities for failing to protect journalists, pointing to a series of unsolved murders of reporters.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists has ranked Russia as the world's third most dangerous country for the media after Iraq and Algeria. *AFP*

POLITKOVSKAYA: Killing remains unsolved. AP



PRODEMOCRACY supporters display yellow umbrellas in Hong Kong on Oct. 7 to drum up public support for direct elections in the city. AFP

Thousands in Hong Kong demand full democracy

HONG KONG—THOUSANDS of people marched through Hong Kong Sunday to demand the right to pick the city's leader and the entire legislature in 2012.

More than 5,500 people also hoisted umbrellas to form the numbers 2-0-1-2—their target year for full democracy—before they started off, prodemocracy lawmaker Ronny Tong said.

The crowd chanted "One person one vote, the only way to go" and "Universal suffrage in 2012" as they marched to government headquarters.

Hong Kong people do not have the right to pick the territory's leader, known as the chief executive. An 800-member election committee, considered partial to Beijing, makes the selection. Only half of the local legislative assembly's 60 lawmakers are directly elected. The rest are picked by special interest groups, such as business and labor unions.

The former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997 but was promised a wide degree of autonomy under a "one country, two systems" formula. Beijing ruled out full democracy for the territory before 2008. *AP*

Savage rapes stoke trauma of Congo war

BUKAVU, CONGO—DENIS MUKwege, a Congolese gynecologist, cannot bear to listen to the stories his patients tell him anymore.

Every day, 10 new women and girls who have been raped show up at his hospital. Many have been so sadistically attacked that their reproductive and digestive systems are beyond repair.

"We don't know why these rapes are happening, but one thing is clear," said Mukwege, who works in South Kivu Province, the epicenter of Congo's rape epidemic. "They are done to destroy women."

Eastern Congo is going through another one of its convulsions of violence, and this time it seems that women are being systematically attacked on a scale never before seen here. The United Nations says 27,000 sexual assaults were reported in 2006 in South Kivu province alone, and that may be just a fraction of the total across the country.

"The sexual violence in Congo is the worst in the world," said John Holmes, the UN undersecretary general for humanitarian affairs. "The sheer numbers, the wholesale brutality, the culture of impunity—it's appalling."

While rape has always been a weapon of war, researchers say they fear that Congo's problem has metastasized into a wider social phenomenon.

Malteser International, a European aid organization that runs health clinics in eastern Congo, estimates that it will treat 8,000 sexual violence cases this year, compared with 6,338 last year.

At Panzi Hospital, where Mukwege performs as many as six rape-related surgeries a day, bed after bed is filled with women with colostomy bags hanging next to them because of all the internal damage.

"I still have pain and feel chills," said Kasindi Wabulasa, who was raped in February by five men. The men held an AK-47 rifle to her husband's chest and made him watch, telling him that if he closed his eyes they would shoot him. When they were finished, she said, they shot him anyway.

The attacks go on despite the presence of the largest UN peacekeeping force in the world, with more than 17,000 troops.

Few seem to be spared. Mukwege said his oldest patient was 75, his youngest 3. *NYT*

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Boycotts, legal fight cloud Musharraf win

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—GEN. PERVEZ MUsharraf easily won the presidential election on Saturday, but an opposition boycott and pending hearings in the Supreme Court, which still has to decide on his eligibility to run for election in uniform, left him with an incomplete victory.

The vote, by national and provincial assemblies, ended up as a one-man race after other candidates withdrew. All opposition parties refused to take part, and only legislators from the ruling coalition, plus a few independents, voted.

Musharraf received 252 votes in the National Assembly and Senate. One of his opponents, a former Supreme Court judge, Wajihuddin Ahmed, won two votes, the chief election commissioner, Qazi Muhammad Farooq, announced in the national parliament. The provincial assemblies returned similarly clear margins. "This is a very welcome result," the prime minister, Shaukat Aziz, told reporters.

Musharraf had been widely expected to be reelected as the government coalition holds a majority in all but one provincial assembly. But the election will be recognized only if the Supreme Court, which will hear challenges this month to Musharraf's participation in the election, rules in his favor.

Two of his opponents have raised constitutional objections to his seeking what is in effect a third presidential term and running for elected office while holding the position of chief of Army staff. Opposition lawyers, who have opposed Musharraf's eight years of military rule on constitutional grounds, and all the main opposition parties are supporting the legal challenges.

Musharraf, who seized power in a military coup in October 1999, has struggled against accusations that his leadership is illegitimate. He first led the country as chief executive. Then in 2002 he sought an election by referendum, which was widely criticized for being rigged. He won a vote of confidence by the electoral college in January 2004; that allowed him to continue as president through a term that expires next month.

Yet he still commands a majority in the elected assemblies, and disquiet among members of the ruling party melted away on election day.

The former minister of tourism, Nilofer Bakhtiar, who had said she would not vote for Musharraf if he remained in uniform, said his recent promise to the Supreme Court that he would resign his military post after the election had satisfied her.

"I am here only because he said he would take off his uniform," she said Saturday. "He will take the oath in a suit." *NYT*

20 injured in Harlem explosion

NEW YORK—A GAS LEAK AT A FIVE-STOry apartment building in Harlem set off a window-shattering explosion early Saturday evening, injuring 20 people, including eight children and two firefighters, the authorities said.

Four children, all sisters, were in critical condition with severe burns at Harlem Hospital Center. Their mother was also badly burned.

The explosion, at 10 W. 119th St., shattered the calm of a pleasant October afternoon.

"It sounded like a bomb," said Marion Gilford, 53. "You could feel it."

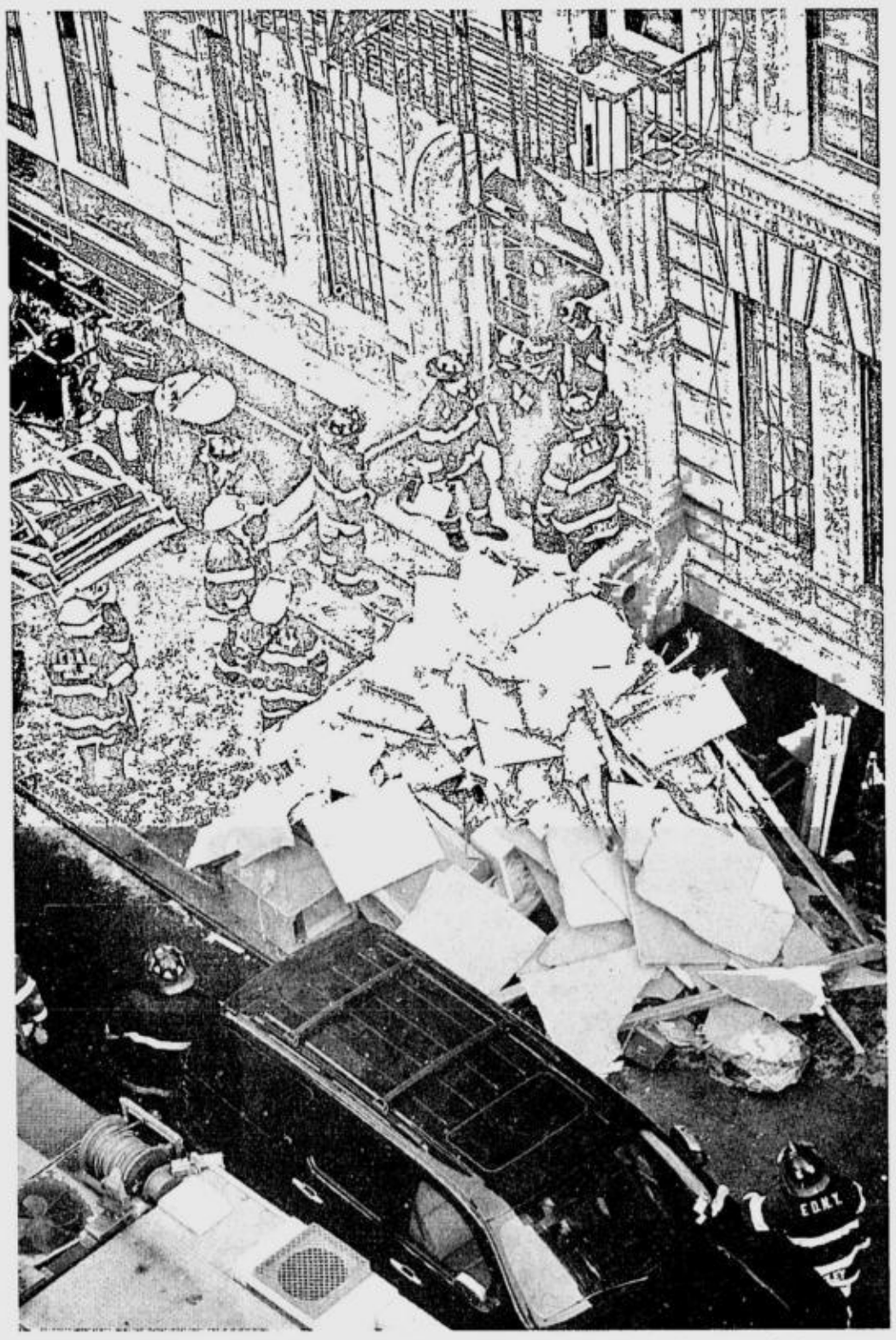
Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta said at a news conference at the scene that the explosion originated on the first floor of the 20-unit building, in an apartment in the rear of the concrete building. He said fire marshals and police officials were investigating the circumstances that led up to the explosion, but preliminary information indicated that a gas leak was to blame. They had not found the source of the leak Saturday night.

A spokeswoman for Con Edison said it had no reports of a gas leak before the explosion.

The worst injured seemed to be the four sisters: Duaa Alghaithi, 5; Twka, 4; Lina, 2; and Afaf, 15 months. All were admitted to Harlem Hospital Center's burn intensive care unit in critical condition. Their mother, Alouf Hassnin, 29, was moved from St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital to New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell hospital.

"This is my life," said the girls' father, Rassas Alghaithi, 27. "If something happens to my wife, to my kids, I don't want life, either."

Alghaithi, a Yemeni immigrant, works nights at a deli, and he had been working there while his family had been living in Hamtramck, Mich. Last week, his cousin said, Alghaithi went to Michigan and brought his family to New York, and they moved into a first-floor apartment on West 119th Street days ago. *NYT*



FIREFIGHTERS remove debris from a building on Oct. 6 in New York after an explosion. AP

Musharraf: Moderate who admires Napoleon, Nixon

ISLAMABAD—FOR AN INSIGHT into why Pakistani military ruler Pervez Musharraf wants to cling to power, his stated leadership models say it all—Napoleon Bonaparte and Richard Nixon.

Musharraf has employed the French emperor's soldierly plain-speaking and the late US president's reliance on realpolitik in equal measure since he seized power without firing a shot on Oct. 12, 1999.

Since then he has portrayed himself as both his nuclear-armed nation's savior from itself and, since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, as the world's bulwark against the menace of al-Qaida.

His opponents are more apt to say that after failing to restore full democracy and presiding over eight years of military rule he has fallen victim to the dictator's disease of thinking himself indispensable.

"He suffers from a highly inflated image of himself," said Talat Masood, a former general-turned-political analyst who has called for a transition to civilian rule.

A whisky-drinking moderate, Musharraf has won some praise for trying to tackle extremism and presiding over resulting record growth that has made Pakistan one of the world's fastest expanding economies.

He has also encouraged an exponential increase in electronic and other media.

And he has undeniably shown courage in what has been dubbed the world's most dangerous job, one that has seen him escape at least three assassination attempts by Osama bin Laden's extremist network.

Talking about the bids to kill him on his official website, Musharraf says: "I call myself 'Lucky.' Napoleon had said, besides all qualities a leader has to be lucky to succeed. Therefore, I must succeed."

MUSHARRAF AFP

Musharraf, a former commando, has also referred to Napoleon in several interviews.

But Masood said that Musharraf's frequent insistence that he should stay in office to free his country's 160 million people from Islamic militancy was a misconception.

"To say that he is the one who can fight the war on terror is just absurd, it is the other way round. Someone else is needed to generate vitality and harness the forces which would counter the forces of terrorism," he said.

Musharraf has said that he will give up his position as Army chief by Nov. 15 if he wins Saturday's vote—wrench for a man who proclaimed earlier this year that the "military uniform has become part of my skin."

Musharraf was born in Old Delhi on Aug. 11, 1943 and his family moved to the newly created Pakistan shortly after independence four years later.

He joined the Pakistan Military Academy aged 18 and became a commando in 1966 but admitted that "my bluntness and indiscipline landed me in many a serious trouble" until his marriage in 1968. He now has a son and a daughter. *AFP*

'Made in India' rising to challenge China goods

NEW DELHI—"MADE IN INDIA" could be the next big economic story with the country challenging China's position as the leading global manufacturing hub within five years, says a new report.

Right now China is the favorite choice for outsourcing manufacturing while India is preferred for information technology, finance and customer services, said Capgemini, Europe's largest computer consultancy.

But "there's a very keen interest in moving more manufacturing to India," said Roy Lenders, vice president at Capgemini Consulting Services and the report's author.

In fact, "India could challenge the position of China as the manufacturing center of the world in the next three to five years," Lenders said, citing a survey of 340 mainly Fortune 500 global manufacturing companies.

"What surprised us was when we asked about their plans for the next three or four years, they said outsourcing manufacturing (to India) was a higher priority than outsourcing back office work," he said in a telephone interview from Utrecht in the Netherlands. *AFP*

Ruling allows pols in US state to lie about foes

NOT THAT THEY NEED ENcouragement, but politicians were given the green light to lie about their opponents by the Washington state Supreme Court the other day.

More than a dozen states have laws that make it illegal to say false things about political candidates. The laws are, in practice, mainly aspirational. By a 5-4 vote on Thursday, the Supreme Court in Washington state added that the law in that state was also unconstitutional.

"The notion that the government, rather than the people, may be the final arbiter of truth in political debate is fundamentally at odds with the First Amendment," Justice James M. Johnson wrote for four of the justices in the majority. A dissenting justice, Barbara A. Madsen, wrote that "the majority's decision is an invitation to lie with impunity."

Madsen added that the decision would help turn "political campaigns into contests of the best stratagems of lies and deceit, to the end that honest discourse and honest candidates are lost in the maelstrom."

The case arose from a statement in a 2002 campaign brochure for Marilou Rickert, who was running for state Senate on the Green Party ticket. The brochure said the incumbent, Tim Sheldon, a Democrat, had "voted to close a facility for the developmentally challenged."

After Sheldon was reelected, receiving about 79 percent of the vote, he filed a complaint with the state's Public Disclosure Commission.

Sheldon said Rickert had violated a state law against publishing "a false statement of material fact about a candidate for public office" in advertisements and campaign materials if the statement was made with "actual malice," meaning in the knowledge that it was false or with reckless disregard to the truth.

The commission ruled against Rickert and fined her $1,000. It found that Sheldon had not voted to close the facility and that it was, in any event, a juvenile detention center rather than one for the developmentally challenged.

Johnson said the law under which the commission had acted was "a censorship scheme."

"It naively assumes," Johnson wrote, "that the government is capable of correctly and consistently negotiating the thin line between fact and opinion in political speech." *NYT*

SHAIMA Saidani (left) and a friend going home after classes. REUTERS

Moroccan girl sparks debate in Spain over headscarf

MADRID—A MOROCCAN GIRL was allowed to return to school in Spain last week after briefly being expelled for wearing the Muslim headscarf, but the incident has sparked a national debate over the traditional head cover in the mainly Roman Catholic country.

Two weeks ago a public school in the town of Gerona in the rich northeastern region of Catalonia said Shaima Saidani, 9, could not attend classes wearing the headscarf, or hijab, as it was against its norms.

The girl returned to school Tuesday after Catalonia's regional government ruled that her right to an education was more important than the institution's norms, which it said amounted to discrimination.

"I don't understand it because I am the same as the other girls and I am not hurting anyone," Shaima told Catalan daily newspaper El Periodico when asked if she understood why she had been prevented from attending school.

Shaima, who says she wants to be a doctor, lived most of her life with her grandmother in Morocco where she received a religious education. Her parents say it is her decision to wear the headscarf.

The Socialist government of Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero reaffirmed its opposition to a ban on the use of headscarves in public schools, calling Shaima's case "unique."

But the main opposition conservative Popular Party and the regional moderate Catalan nationalists CiU both called for a law regulating the use of the hijab.

"All people who live in Spain have the obligation to respect our juridical order, our laws and our values," Popular Party leader Mariano Rajoy said Thursday.

The communist United Left party went further, urging Spain to adopt a law like the one that came into force in France in 2004 that bans religious symbols in public schools.

Fermin Bouza, a sociology professor at the Complutense University in Madrid, said it was unlikely that Spain, where the Roman Catholic faith still plays an important role in society, would follow the example of France, which has a long secular tradition.

"As long as it is just a veil, which is a small symbol, there will be no problem. You have to remember that 30 years ago in Spain many women wore shawls," he said.

"I don't think there is a real reason for tension here where Catholics have the habit of wearing religious medals," he added.

The issue of the Muslim veil is a relatively new one for Spain which has seen the number of immigrants living within its borders soar from around half a million in 1996 to 4.48 million at the end of last year, out of a total population of 45.12 million people, according to government figures.

Moroccans make up Spain's largest foreign community with some 576,000 residents.

There are now 531,000 immigrant children attending Spain's schools, including 90,000 from North Africa.

In several other European Union states the use of the hijab in schools has been allowed in the name of civil liberty or schools have been given permission to decide their own policy. *AFP*

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AFTER serving out a one-year suspension for violating league eligibility rules, La Salle's gritty Green Archers flash the No. 1 sign at the end of the UAAP basketball season. The Taft Avenue boys downed the UE Warriors, 73-64, in Game 2 of the Finals yesterday at the Big Dome.

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Unheralded Farenas TKOs foe in two

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

LAS VEGAS—FILIPINO MICHAEL FARENAS stopped Mexican Arturo Valenzuela in the second round on the undercard of the Manny Pacquiao-Marco Antonio Barrera fight yesterday at the Mandalay Bay Events Center here.

Farenas, a native of Gubat, Sorsogon and the country's No. 1 featherweight contender, used big lefts in dominating the Mexican fighter, who took a standing knockdown in the first round.

The Filipino rained blows on Valenzuela in the second round, prompting referee Russell Mora to stop the bout in 58 seconds of the round.

Managed by WBO champ Gerry Peñalosa and Japanese Kosuke Washio, Farenas is slated to next vie for the RP featherweight title.

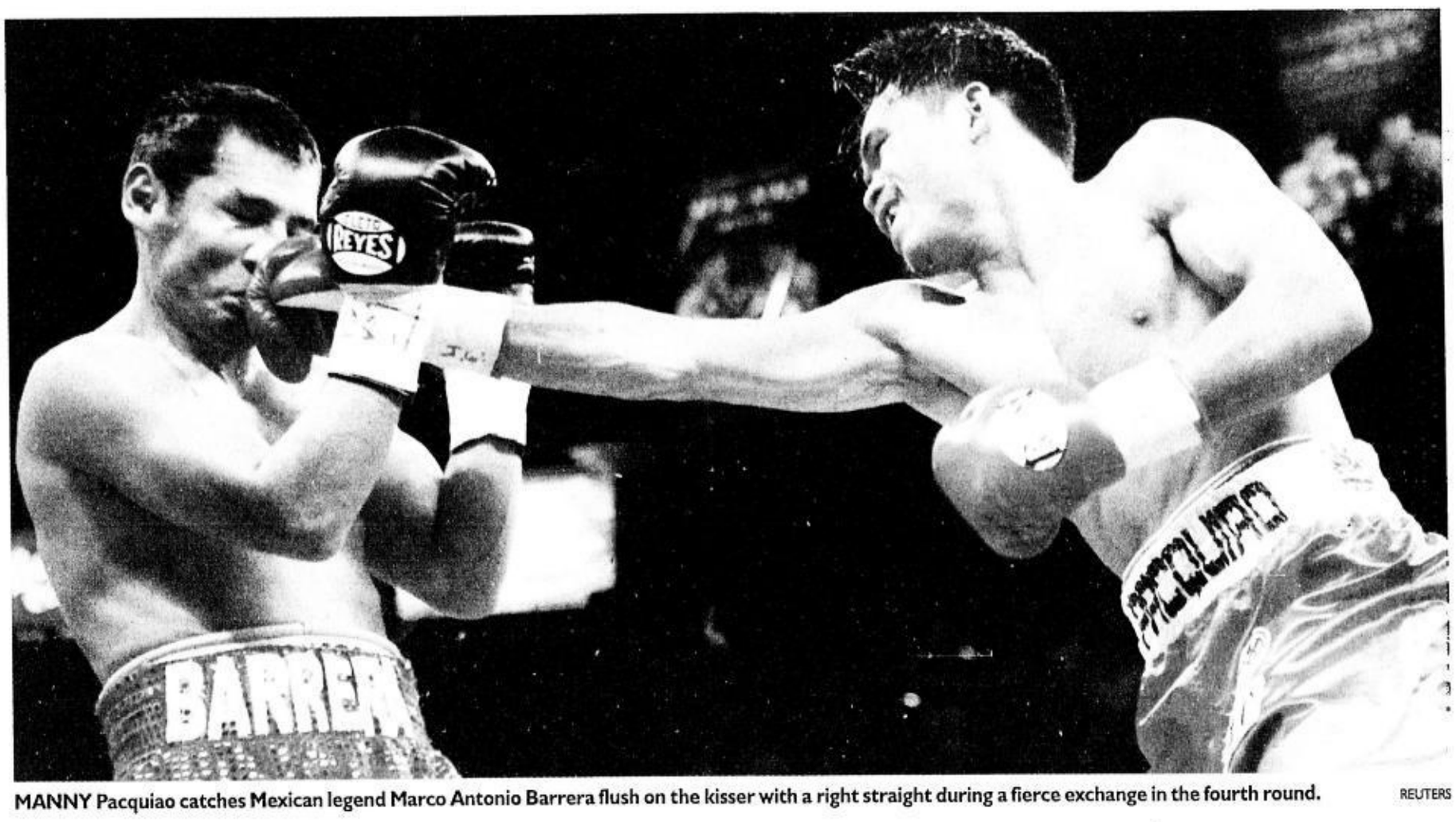
Two bouts shelved

But two other fights featuring Filipino boxers were shelved because of weight disparity.

The professional boxing debut of 27-year-old Ana "The Hurricane" Julaton, a Fil-American, was put off because of a weight disparity with her opponent, Elena Coto of Texas.

The four-round super bantamweight bout was supposed to be Julaton's first professional fight since leaving taekwondo and wushu three years ago.

Organizers likewise postponed the fight between Vernie Torres and Manuel Sarabia of Mexico when the Filipino came in to the weigh-in bloated for the contract weight.



MANNY Pacquiao catches Mexican legend Marco Antonio Barrera flush on the kisser with a right straight during a fierce exchange in the fourth round. REUTERS

Barrera keeps his feet, Pacquiao his supremacy

HIGH NOTE: Kyla sings the national anthem before the entertaining fight. Purists said the GMA Network talent acquitted herself well by not deviating too much from the anthem's traditional tones. REUTERS

By Greg Beacham
AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS—MANNY PACQUIAO SURE DIDN'T LOOK DISTRACTED WHILE he pounded Marco Antonio Barrera into retirement.

Barrera was sharp as well, and he kept his feet in this rematch—but Pacquiao kept his supremacy.

Pacquiao beat Barrera for the second time Saturday night (Sunday morning in the Philippines), winning a gritty unanimous decision nearly four years after the Philippines' favorite son became a boxing superstar with an upset victory over Barrera.

Pacquiao's trainers and fans worried about the distractions of Manny's many interests outside boxing in the weeks leading up to the fight. Pacquiao's dalliances with movies, music and politics didn't matter, because the sport's most inspired brawler was his usual ruthless self in dispatching yet another great Mexican champion in a 130-pound bout at Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino.

Both fighters made $2 million as promoters Oscar De La Hoya and Bob Arum staged an entertaining card in their first joint effort since settling various legal disputes between Golden Boy Promotions and Top Rank, including a lengthy wrangle over the right to promote Pacquiao.

"It was a good fight, and it was different from the first fight," Pacquiao said. "He's a good, smart boxer. I'm satisfied with the result. I knew he would have to box me this time around."

Not even an illegal 11th-round blow by Barrera could stop the lightning-quick Pacquiao (45-3-2, 34 KOs), who earned his sixth straight victory.

Barrera (63-6) lost a point for a head shot that discombobulated Pacquiao after the referee moved in to separate them in the 11th, but Pacquiao recovered in time to reach the final bell.

Though Barrera again said he'll retire after consecutive losses this year, the result was a moral victory that could be heard in the voices of the Mexican fans who stood and cheered the 33-year-old as he left the ring.

"I definitely lost my head in some of those rounds," Barrera said. "I got too caught up in the action. I shouldn't have stayed in those exchanges as long as I did. We boxed well. I feel like I dominated the fight with my left hand, and then I got a head-butt, and that's what threw me off the game plan."

Pacquiao was responsible for the only TKO loss of the Mexican's career, in their first meeting in late 2003, but Barrera refused to go down this time against one of the sport's knockout artists.

With his three children crowded around him, Barrera affirmed his decision to retire afterward. He vowed he wouldn't even enter the ring for a farewell fight in his native Mexico City, as he had previously considered.

"I was sad because I lost the fight, but he never really hurt me," Barrera said. "I didn't even think he landed that many punches."

Pacquiao dominated the punch stats, landing 256 punches to Barrera's 120. Pacquiao also had more than twice as many power shots, hitting on 54 percent while Barrera had just 34 percent.

"I was surprised (Barrera) lasted the way he did," said Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's trainer. "He has a lot of heart and guts. He fought a great fight. ... Manny boxed well. He showed good footwork, cutting off and moving him to the right."

With Pacquiao in his prime and Barrera on the downside, Pacquiao was a strong favorite to win the rematch—but their 2003 roles were reversed.

So settles for draw with Israeli GM

FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL MASTER Wesley So was held to a draw by No.3 GM Maxim Rodshtein of Israel after 40 moves of a Queens Indian Defense and fell into a four way-tie for the lead after the fourth round of the 2007 World Juniors and Girls Chess Championships at the T. Petrosian Chess House in Yerevan, Armenia Saturday.

So has 3.5 points like GM Rodshtein, No. 9 GM Georg Meier of Germany and fifth round opponent No. 15 GM David Howell of England in this boys' 20-and-under division.

GM Meier beat No. 31 IM Sasha Kaplan after 48 moves of a French Defense while GM Howell split the point with No. 2 GM Daniel Stellwagen of the Netherlands after 30 moves of another French Duel.

Top seed GM Wang Hao of China drew with No. 11 GM Ivan Popov of Russia after 50 moves of a Sicilian defense to lead the big bunch of 3 pointers. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Battered Mexican hangs up gloves

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

LAS VEGAS—LEGENDARY MEXICAN fighter Marco Antonio Barrera announced his retirement yesterday moments after his unanimous decision loss at the hands of Filipino champion Manny Pacquiao at the Mandalay Bay Events Center.

"This is my last fight," he told the media at the post-fight press conference, while holding his young daughter.

"Tonight, I say goodbye to this beautiful sport. I've fought with the best, and I'm happy with my decision," added Barrera, who lost to Pacquiao for the second time in front of 10,112 screaming fans.

When asked what's the difference between this fight and the one he lost to Pacquiao in 2003, Barrera said: "The difference between this fight and the first one, was that I felt all of his punches the first time. Tonight, I did not feel them. But he is still very big, very strong."

Asked if there was a fighter out there who can beat Manny Pacquiao, Barrera was quick with his answer: "Valero!"

The future Hall-of-Famer was referring to the Japan-based Venezuelan Edwin Valero, who watched the fight at ringside.

Promoted by Asia's influential promoter Akihiko Honda, Valero has been calling out Pacquiao to a fight, although his handlers have indicated it might be too soon for him to face Pacquiao.

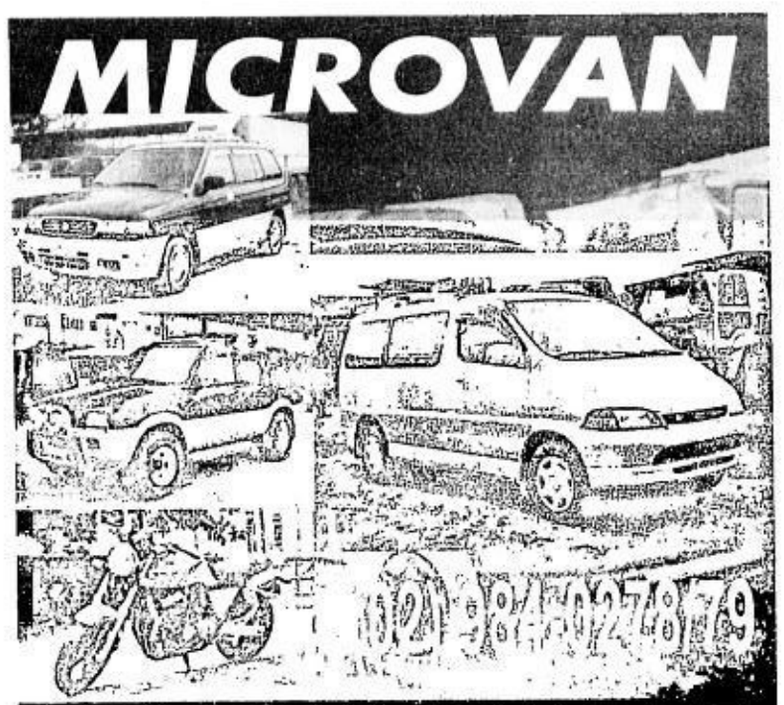
Meanwhile, WBO super featherweight champion Joan Guzman yesterday personally issued a challenge to Pacquiao.

Guzman attended yesterday's post-fight press conference, and took the microphone to ask Pacquiao when he is going to fight him.

"When are you going to fight me?" queried Guzman, while Pacquiao was busy talking with promoter Oscar De La Hoya.

Guzman, however, has yet to take care of business on Nov. 17 when he takes on dangerous Mexican Humberto Soto.

BARRERA, bleeding from a cut under the right eye, is warned by referee Tony Weeks after illegally hitting Pacquiao in the 11th round. AP



Lyceum, RTU put away WNCAA finals openers

DEFENDING CHAMPION LYceum and Rizal Technological University eked out close wins yesterday in Game One of their respective best-of-three finals series in the 38th WNCAA senior basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Host school Lyceum prevented College of St. Benilde from scoring in the final 16 seconds to hack out a thrilling 43-42 victory in Senior A.

RTU also nipped St. Francis of Assisi College, 66-64, to seize the lead in the Senior B championship.

The Lady Pirates and the Blue Thunder go for the clincher on Friday at the St. Scholastica's College gym in Manila.

In the one-game playoff for third place, St. Scholastica's posted its highest senior basketball finish ever when it beat World Citi Colleges in Group A, 75-56.

Sophomore squad Philippine Women's University bagged the Senior B third place plum with a 61-57 triumph over Emilio Aguinaldo College.

SPORTSWATCH

Couriers outlast Kidos in Grace Gospel caging

THE COURIER WOMEN'S TEAM EDGED UNDERMANNED KIDOS, 21-18, in a recent exhibition match of the Grace Gospel Basketball League (GGBL). It was a thrilling game from start to finish, with neither team posting double-digit leads. Three-point shots, including two in the first quarter, helped Courier outplay their younger counterparts, who posted a one-point lead in the first half.

SJC derby fourth round kicks off

THE SM FARMS OPEN 6-STAG DERBY CONTINUES WITH ITS FOURTH round today with 290 entries mixing it up in 80 matches at the San Juan Coliseum. The event offers a P2.5-million guaranteed prize for an entry fee of P8,800. The last day of eliminations will be on Oct. 10 while the championship series fires off Oct. 13 in this event supported by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. For details, please call 7255639, 7255653 and 0917-8077667.

Stagfighter race heats up

THE RACE FOR THE PINOY COCKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (PCAP) Stagfighter of the Year trophy heats up with a five-stag derby today featuring 80 fights at the Makati Coliseum. Efren Canlas and Ting Arioza lead the race with 11 points each, followed by R. Puno with 10.5 points. Within striking distance with 10 wins each are Mayor Nene Aguilar, Nato Lacson of Bacolod and Allan Slaco/James Uy. For inquiries, call 489-8828 or 896-3545

Vijay tops Korea Open; Juvic 30th

SEOUL—JUVIC PAGUNSAN, THE Asian Tour's Rookie of the Year last season, closed out with a 75 to finish in a tie for 30th in the $1-million Kolon-Hana Bank Korea Open won by Fijian star Vijay Singh by two strokes Sunday.

Pagunsan, who had earlier rounds of 71-72-75, totaled 292 and won $7,000 (P322,000).

Singh, 44, birdied the final hole for a two-over-par 73 to wind up with a two-stroke triumph over Korea's Kim Kyung-tae and Yang Yong-eun at the Woo Jeong Hills Country Club.

Singh, with 31 wins on the US PGA Tour, walked away with the top prize of $320,855 after a winning total of six-under-par 278.

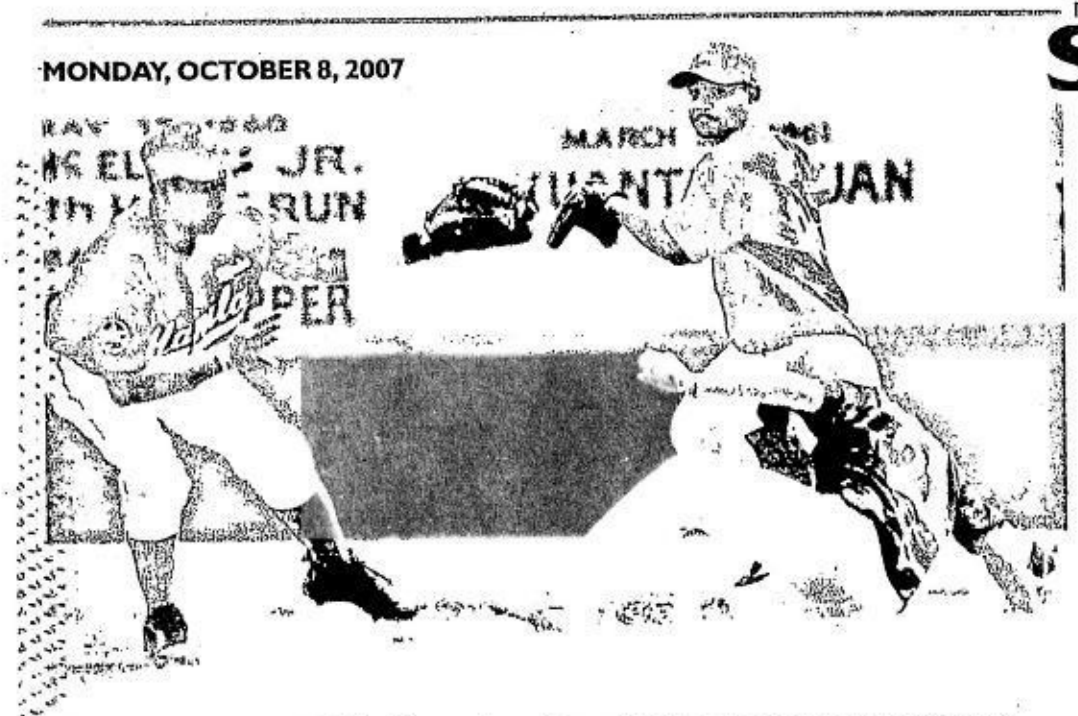
"It is always nice to win here," said Singh. "I've won in Korea back in 1995 and now this year."

Yang, who was last year's winner, struck a 68 to claim joint second spot alongside Kim who holed a birdie on the 18th hole for a 67.

Korea's Kang Kyung-nam was in contention before bogeys on the 16th and 17th holes blew his chance. He finished in joint fourth after a 72.

China's Liang Wen-chong, the Asian Tour's UBS Order of Merit leader, shot a 75 and ended his week in joint 12th place alongside Australia's Scott Barr, who fired a 66, for a 286 total.

Asian Tour News



MIGGY Zuluaga of the Marikina Shoemakers slides safely to second base, beating the tag of Niño Tator (left) of the Manila Sharks in the fifth inning. At center is Romel Roja. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marikina rips Manila nine

Makati also scores in baseball opener

MARIKINA CITY, WITH TEENER VLADIMIR Eguia scattering six hits, subdued fancied Manila, 11-5, yesterday at the start of the Baseball Philippines Series 2 at the Rizal Memorial ballpark.

Defending champion Makati later stamped its class by scoring an abbreviated 10-0 victory over a debuting Taguig in just seven innings.

Eguia fanned out 10 batters while his teammates riddled the Manilans for 10 hits, including a two-run home run by shortstop John Joseph Apura in the fourth inning.

"I'm confident of our chances here because I have in this team a total of eight pitchers, and (Eguia) is just one of them," said Marikina coach Randy Dizer.

The 19-year-old Eguia, a Human Kinetics junior at University of the Philippines, gave up two runs in the first inning courtesy of third baseman Nino Tator and outfielder Virgilio Roxas.

But Eguia settled down and the Shoemakers grabbed the lead for good in the tournament put up by Community Sports Inc. with a four-run splurge in the third inning, 4-2.

Marikina, composed mainly of standouts from UP and Ateneo, sealed it with another four-run binge spiked by Aprura's homer.

The Shoemakers take on the Cebu Dolphins next week with Dizer planning to field another pitching talent in Maroon Randy de Leon.

"We'll rely on him next week," said Dizer.

The tournament, supported by Purefoods TJ Hotdogs, Gatorade, Mizuno Sports, Harbour Centre Inc. and Industrial Enterprises Inc., uses a double-round format with the six teams playing a minimum of 10 games each.

GAMES SUNDAY
(Rizal Memorial ballpark)
7 a.m.—Taguig vs Dumaguete
10:30 p.m.—Manila vs Makati
2 p.m.—Cebu vs Marikina

The linescores:

First Game	R	H	E
MANILA—200 001 002	5	6	6
MARIKINA—040 400 030	11	10	5

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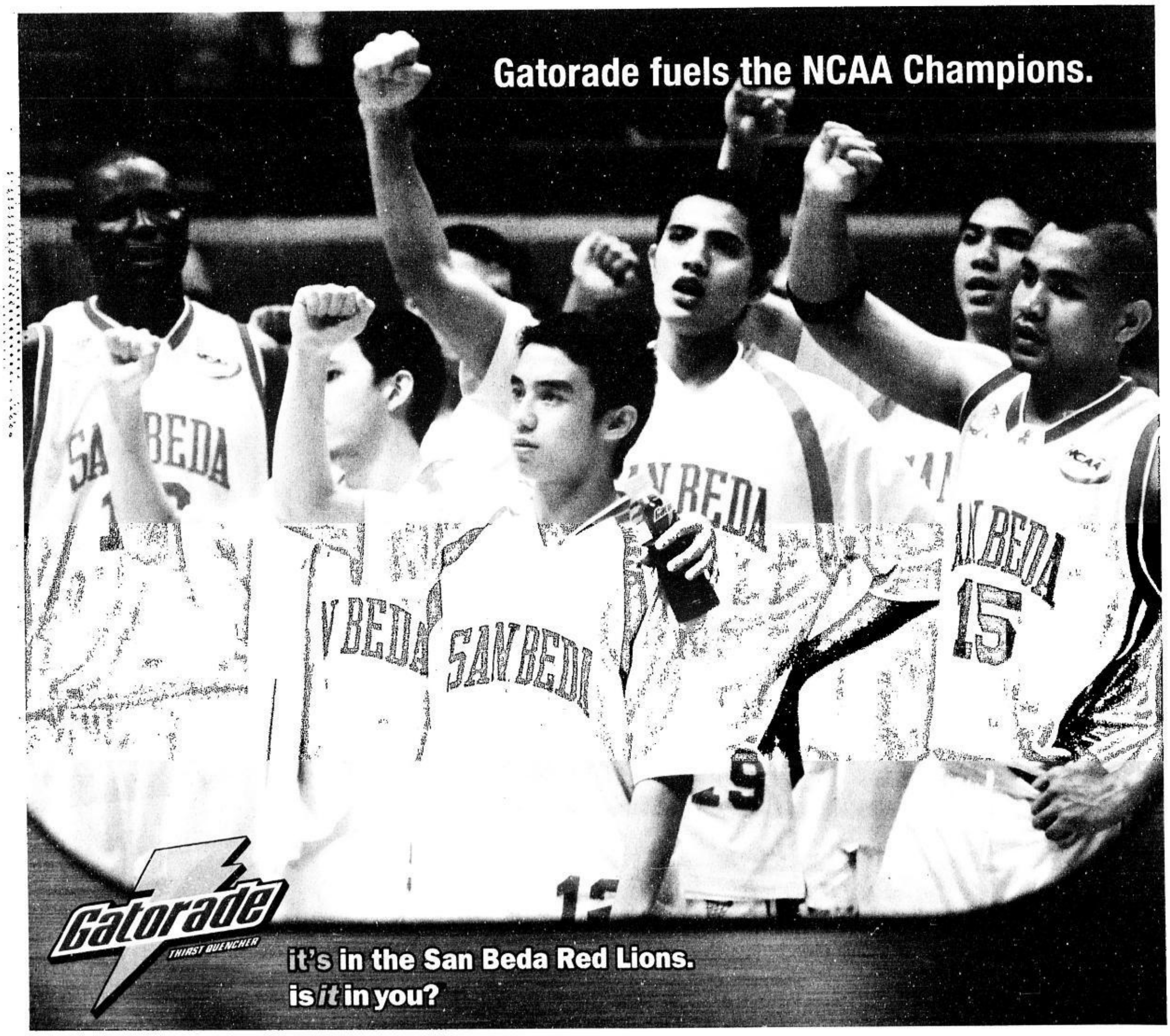


Tacuyan completes amazing show; Dodie Boy son shines

By Dennis U. Eroa
Inquirer Libre

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—LANKY Orlando Tacuyan Jr. put an exclamation point to a memorable week by capturing the featherweight gold even as a junior boxer from a family of world champions shone at the close of the 2007 Smart National Open Boxing Championships at the Misamis Oriental Capitol Saturday night here.

The 5-foot-9 Tacuyan, whose go-go style belies his young age, proved that his string of victories over rated foes was no fluke as he dealt Charly Suarez a 51-43 beating to emerge on top of the 57-kg class.

A member of the national training pool based in Baguio City, the 19-year-old Tacuyan punished his foe with combinations to the head to claim his first gold in the annual slugfest.

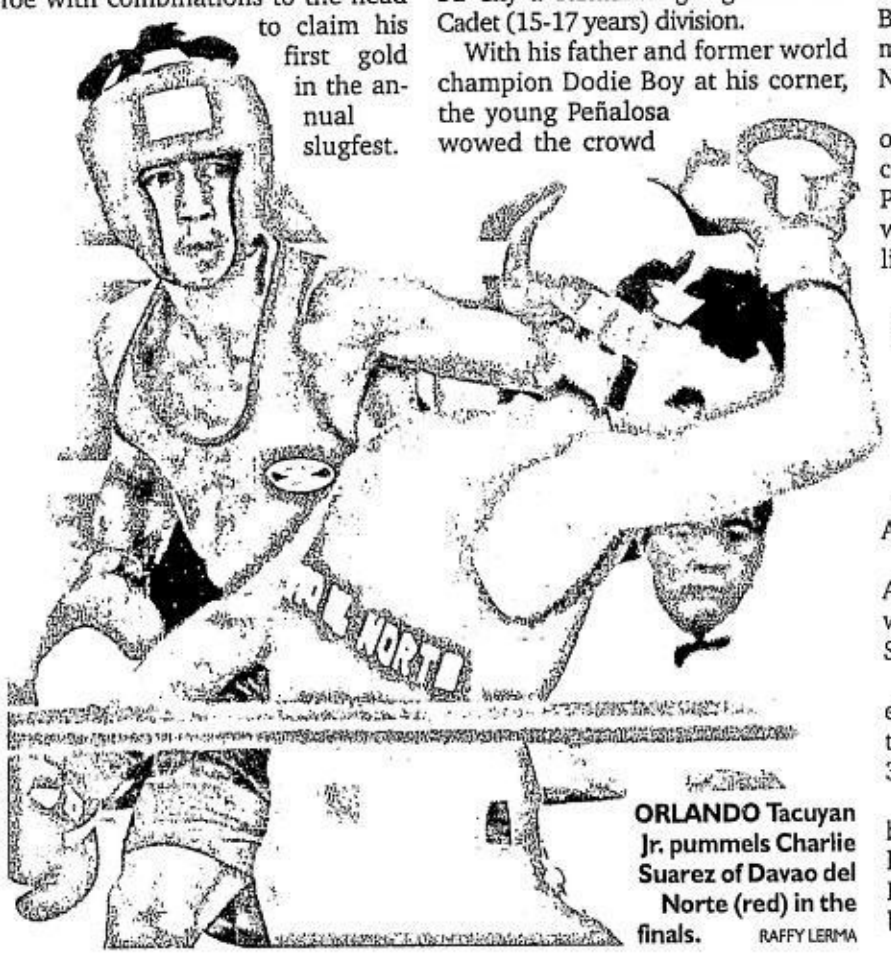
Tacuyan's impressive performance earned him the tournament's Best Boxer Award, a feat widely applauded by a huge gallery that included legendary Cuban mentor Dr. Alcides Sagarra Caron.

"I'm delighted to win the gold, especially after beating two members of the national team," said Tacuyan, son of a former RP fighter and a policewoman who shocked Doha Asian Games gold medalist Joan Tipon in the first round.

Tipon and Suarez earned the nod of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, headed by Manny T. Lopez, to compete in the World Boxing Championships starting Oct. 18 in Chicago, Illinois.

Sharing the limelight with Tacuyan was Dodie Boy Peñalosa, who gave Cebu City a bantamweight gold in the Cadet (15-17 years) division.

With his father and former world champion Dodie Boy at his corner, the young Peñalosa wowed the crowd with his ring savvy en route to a 21-11 win over Warren Baterta of host Misamis Oriental.



ORLANDO Tacuyan Jr. pummels Charlie Suarez of Davao del Norte (red) in the finals. RAFFY LERMA

Pinweight Conrado Tañamor and Artist Martin also won impressively in the junior division.

Tañamor, younger brother of two-time Olympian Harry, pocketed the pinweight gold by outclassing Jomar Cordinillo of Tagbilaran (RSC-O, 3rd round) while Martin of Olongapo retained his welterweight crown by winning over Joseph Lopez of Camiguin by retirement in 1:12 of the third round.

Asian Games bronze medalist Godfrey Castro of Philippine Army denied Olongapo a second gold when he beat Larry Abarra in the bantamweight finals via a referee stopped contest-outscored (RSC-O) in the third round.

Bill Vicera gave Philippine Navy-Bago City the first of its five golds by mauling Ritchie Behec of Davao del Norte in the veterans' pinweight finals.

Navy, which unseated Army as overall champion, also won golds courtesy of light-flyweight Albert Pabila, lightweight Joegin Ladon, welterweight Larry Semillano and light heavyweight Junie Tizon.

Pabila, who shocked Harry Tañamor in the preliminaries, whipped Frederick de la Cruz of Davao City (RSC-O, 2nd round); Ladon bested Armyman Genebert Basadre, 40-33; Semillano humbled Wilfredo Lopez, 32-19, while Tizon downed Almar Adiong (retired, 3rd round).

Light-flyweight Violito Payla gave Army its second gold via an RSC-O win in the third round over Rey Saludar of Davao del Norte.

Armyman Max Tabangcora pocketed the heavyweight gold over teammate Maraon Golez (RSC-O, 3rd round).

Light welterweight Delfin Boholst gave host Misamis Oriental its lone gold over Armyman Anthony Igusquiza, who retired due to a bleeding left eyebrow.

THE UE Warriors' Paul Lee tries to wrest possession of the leather against La Salle's Cholo Villanueva (left) and Kish Co. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Spo

Arc for

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT WAS THE

La Salle turned mare as the Gree the UAAP men's Araneta Coliseum

"Like what I've b how you start the end the season," Pumaren after the Warriors' their only to complete a best-

And as he predic an guards that pull

The Archers rep Casio and Chol shared the Finals M plum--and TY Tan powered offensive Warriors threw in t

Yet Franz could Archers' seventh m at the expense of Dindo's Warriors.

"I won several ready for La Salle,

Cheers from the 'enemy'

By Musong R. Castillo

ALL BY HIMSELF IN A COLISEUM SCREAMing itself hoarse for a different reason, Jervy Cruz looked headed toward a very lonely coronation.

But the fans of La Salle and University of the East wouldn't allow it. And even more surprising, rabid Archers supporters did not let Chris Tiu's afternoon go unnoticed, applauding the star from fierce rival Ateneo when he stepped to bask in the glory of what was a fulfilling season from a player's perspective.

The ability to shed school colors to give credit where credit is due—a display of underrated camaraderie among member schools of the UAAP—came to fore yesterday, giving appreciative fans goosebumps.

A sea of red and green shouted "Go Ateneo!" and "Go Uste!" cheers when the best and brightest individual talents of Season 70 were feted before yesterday's Game 2 of the University of the East-La Salle title series.

Cruz was awarded the Most Valuable Player trophy, which he received from Santo Tomas officials Rev. Ermito de Sagon, also the UAAP president, and Felicitas Francisco, who were practically the only Thomasians inside a coliseum an-

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chers sweep Warriors seventh UAAP crown

SWEEP THAT MATTERED MOST.

University of the East's dream campaign into a night- Archers pulled off a 73-64 Game 2 triumph to capture basketball championship yesterday at the jampacked

en stressing, it's not season, it's how you said coach Franz Archers dealt the losses of the season f-three title series. ed, it was the veter- d him through. atedly turned to JV Villanueva—who Most Valuable Player to stifle the high- comeback that the e second half. ot exactly relish the n's crown that came is younger brother championships al- ut what I'm feeling right now is something different," said Franz.

It was the seventh title for the Archers since joining the league in 1986, a year after the Warriors won the last of their 18 championships.

"It's a bittersweet feeling for me. Now I know how it's like beating your brother. If only we can slice the trophy, I think the UE Red Warriors deserve the other half. I guess it really showed the maturity of the team, especially the players. They know how to win in the Finals."

Amid the celebration, huge placards unfurled from the gallery—"From Suspension 2 Champion"—that reminded everyone how amazing the feat was.

"Like our slogan, 'We're back, we're one,'" said Franz of his Archers, who rose from a one-year suspension from the league after an eligibility scandal.

"We showed we can bounce back from what we experienced last season and we won the championship."

The Warriors—who trailed by as many as 14 points, 16-30, in the second period—hardly showed the grit that propelled them to the Finals by sweeping all 14 assignments in the elimination round.

"UE is still lacking in experience," noted Franz. "One thing I noticed when we started the series, even in the first game, I noticed that their players were kind of tentative. I cannot blame them, it's their first time here in the big dance."

And Dindo—who emerged from the locker room almost two hours after the game—tersely agreed with his multi-titled brother's assessment: "Talent-wise, we know we have the advantage, but La Salle's experience was decisive. We had a good run, unfortunately we fell short."

Casio drilled in 15 of his 17 points in the final period, including a key 15-foot jumper that put the Archers on top, 66-59, with 51.9 seconds left.

"We really did our best; we were so tired, but we just stayed together," said Casio of the Archers, who entered the Finals series coming from three energy-sapping games—one playoff and two semifinal matches—all against fierce rival Ateneo.

Villanueva, who contributed 14 points, highlighted his heroics with two crucial jumpers when the Warriors moved within a bucket, 55-53, with eight minutes remaining.

"I really wanted this championship because this is my last year in La Salle," said Villanueva. "It's a good graduation gift for me."

The Archers, who claimed the Finals opener with a 64-63 squeaker, orchestrated a more convincing charge in the first half that set the entire game's tempo.

The scores:

LA SALLE 73—Casio 17, Villanueva 14, Maelrhofer 11, Tang 8, Co 6, Barua 6, Malabes 5, Walsham 2, Mangahas 2, Cua 2, Atkins 0, Ferdinand 0.

UE 64—Lee 12, Borboran 12, Gregorio 11, Martinez 8, Cañizares 8, Espiritu 5, Arellano 5, Fampulme 3, Lingganay 0, Bandaying 0, Thiele 0, Llagas 0.

Quarters: 15-11, 34-23, 52-45, 73-64

Artadi inks P1.2M pact with Ginebra

By Musong Castillo

PAUL ARTADI, THE DISgruntled Purefoods guard who found his way to Barangay Ginebra just two weeks ago, recently signed a one-year P1.2 million pact with the Gin Kings.

The 5-foot-10 Artadi, who spent the first three years of his career with the Tender Juicy Giants after being drafted in the first round, will now play behind Jay-Jay Helterbrand and former MVP Johnny Abarrientos coming off the bench for the Kings.

Artadi never really blossomed into the vital cog of a player he was expected to be when he entered the league together with the likes of fellow UE alumnus James Yap and Rich Alvarez. And his career took a turn for the worse when he and Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio had a falling out.

With Ginebra, Artadi will get to learn a lot from Abarrientos, the 1996 MVP when Alaska completed only the league's fourth Grand Slam.

Meanwhile, it's all systems go for the 33rd season of the league, which comes off the wraps on Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum.

A techno-inspired opening ceremony ushers in the season at 4:30 p.m. before San Miguel, last year's runner-up which will now play under the Magnolia Beverage banner, clash with Air21 in the only game scheduled at 6:30 p.m.

GAME SUNDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:30 p.m.—Opening Ceremonies
6:30 p.m.— San Miguel vs Air21

as Cruz, Tiu bag awards

ticipating the La Salle-UE championship battle.

But the Big Dome sounded much like the time when the Tigers won the title last year, thanks to UE and La Salle supporters who—led by their respective school bands playing seemingly as one—broke into the familiar chanting of the UST cheering section.

And before that, La Salle—in an act that would have been considered sacrilegious elsewhere outside this moment—cheered on Tiu using the "Go Ateneo" war cry when the sweet-shooting gunner was named to the Mythical First Team.

Tiu was represented by his younger brother Charles during the ceremonies. He was joined in the elite roster by UE's Mark Borboran and La Salle's streak-shooting guard JV Casio and high-leaping forward Rico Maierhofer.

Hard-working forward JR Cawaling of Far Eastern was adjudged Rookie of the Year after nosing out American neophyte Kirk Long of Ateneo. Cassandra Tioseco of the champion Ateneo squad was named the women's MVP for the second straight year, while Samuel Marata of UPIS was the High School MVP.

Santo Tomas' Japs Cuan won the Best in Assists award. National U enforcer Edwin Asoro was named the Defensive Player of the Year.

Hot Lightnings on verge of first Ucaa title

GAME THURSDAY (*EAC Sports Center*)
1 p.m.—St. Francis vs Acsat

THE ASIAN COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHnology (Acsat) turned back St. Francis of Assisi College, 65-61, in the opener of the Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (Ucaa) men's basketball finals at The Arena in San Juan. The Lightnings moved one win away from bagging their first crown.

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KG, Wolves get it done separately

ROME—KEVIN GARNETT AND THE MINnesota Timberwolves used to do things together. Now, they got preseason wins, but on separate parts of the globe.

Garnett had 19 points and 16 rebounds in his Celtics debut, and Boston ruined Andrea Bargnani's homecoming with an 89-85 preseason victory over the Toronto Raptors on Saturday.

Paul Pierce added 21 points for Boston, while Ray Allen had an off night with only 10 points on 4-of-13 shooting.

The start of the NBA Europe Live tour marked the Celtics' first game since Garnett and Allen joined the team, creating a "Big 3" with Boston veteran Pierce.

"It was good to finally get out there and get our feet wet," Pierce said.

Coach Doc Rivers left both Pierce and Garnett in for 32 minutes, while Allen played 31.

"Doc told us we're not going to play a lot of minutes tonight, but he wanted us to go really hard," Garnett said.

Bargnani, last year's top overall draft pick by Toronto, played his first game in his hometown in an NBA jersey and scored 13 points in less than 15 minutes.

"Andrea was pretty good. I probably could have done a better job at getting him back in, but I wanted to keep him fresh for tomorrow," Raptors coach Sam Mitchell said. "I know where Andrea's at."

TJ Ford and Anthony Parker started at guard for the Raptors, with Chris Bosh and Jason Kapono at forward and Bargnani at center.

The Raptors play Roma on Sunday, then travel to Spain to face Real Madrid. The Celtics meet Garnett's former club, the Minnesota Timberwolves, on Wednesday in London.

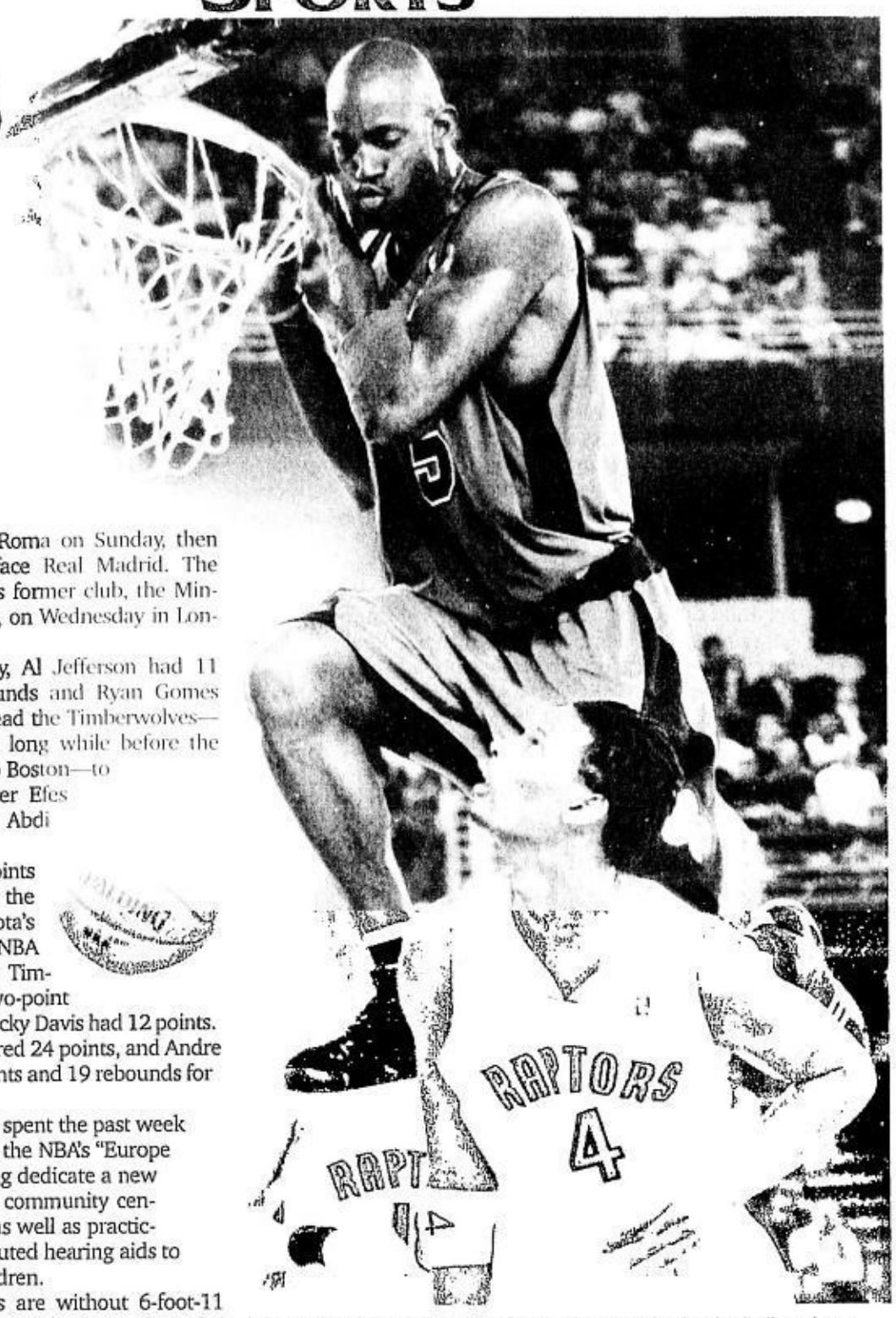
In Istanbul, Turkey, Al Jefferson had 11 points and 17 rebounds and Ryan Gomes scored 12 points to lead the Timberwolves—Garnett's team for a long while before the trade that sent him to Boston—to an 84-81 victory over Efes Pilsen in Istanbul Abdi Ipekci arena.

Gomes had 10 points and nine rebounds in the first half of Minnesota's first game during the NBA Europe tour, and the Timberwolves took a two-point lead on Efes Pilsen. Ricky Davis had 12 points.

Drew Nicholas scored 24 points, and Andre Hutson added 15 points and 19 rebounds for the Turkish side.

The Timberwolves spent the past week in Istanbul as part of the NBA's "Europe Live" Program helping dedicate a new basketball court and community center at a local school as well as practicing. They also distributed hearing aids to more than 1,000 children.

The Timberwolves are without 6-foot-11 Kevin Garnett, the NBA's leading rebounder each of the past four seasons, who was traded to the Boston Celtics for five players and two first-round draft picks. *AP*



NEW BOSTON Celtics star Kevin Garnett dunks the ball against Toronto's Chris Bosh. After hanging on to the rim too long, Garnett, who joins Paul Pierce and Rey Allen in the Celtics, was slapped a technical foul by officials. REUTERS

Pettersen takes over Longs lead

DANVILLE, CALIFORNIA—SUZANN PETtersen made the shot of the day on what was a dramatic ninth hole for a twosome featuring world No. 1 Lorena Ochoa, finishing with a season-best 8-under 64 Saturday for the lead in the Longs Drugs Challenge.

Norway's Pettersen chipped in from 35 yards for a second eagle to provide plenty of momentum heading into the back nine.

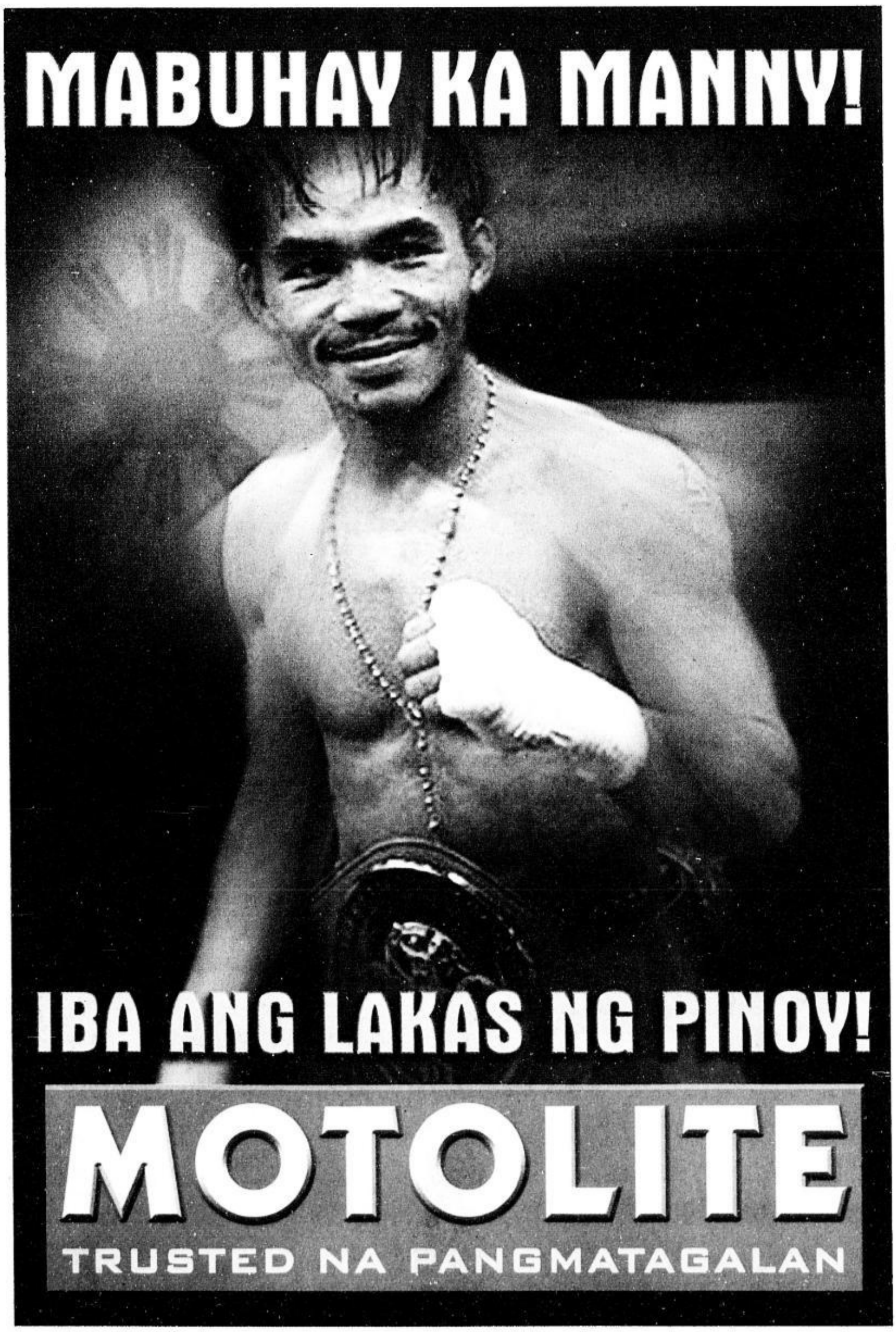
"It's nice," Pettersen said. "I finally chipped in. It's been a while. It's about time. This is where I want to be. It's what you practice for, what you grind for."

OCHOA AFP

Pettersen, the 26-year-old who won the Michelob Ultra Open in May for her first LPGA Tour title and took the McDonald's LPGA Championship in June for her first major victory, had a 12-under 204 total for a one-stroke lead over Canadian Lorie Kane (67). Ochoa (67) was another stroke behind at 10 under.

Pettersen matched the tournament record, last set by Jeong Jang in the first round in 2006. After an opening 75, Pettersen had a 65 on Friday and added the 64 Saturday for the lowest two-round stretch in the event's 12-year history (129).

Juli Inkster's 71 got her to 5 under and defending champion Karrie Webb (74) was one stroke behind Inkster to round out the top five on the leaderboard after the late groups were held up about 40 minutes on the 16th tee. The slow play made for 5-hour rounds. *AP*



CAGE GODFATHER
Cebuana Lhuillier CEO and president Jean Henri Lhuillier, a staunch sports supporter, has added the RP women's basketball team to his family. This assistance from Lhuillier begins with this month's Seaba and the SEA Games in December, both to be held in Thailand. Photo shows the Philippine's envoy to Italy, and founder of Cebuana Lhuillier, Ambassador Philippine Lhuillier; Fritz Gaston, head coach of the RP women's squad; BAP-SBP president Manny Pangilinan; BAP-SBP executive director, secretary general Patrick Gregorio; and JH Lhuillier.

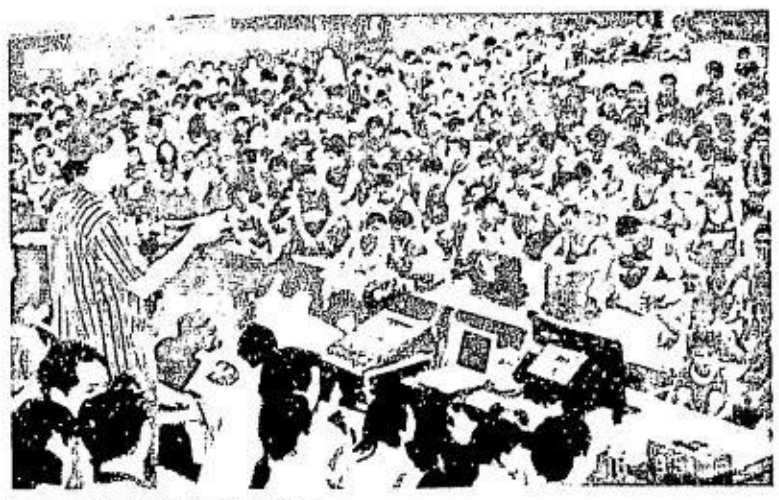
Alaxan Cup at stake in dancesport tilt

THE DANCE SPORT COUNCIL of the Philippines will be staging the 11th DSCP National Championships-Alaxan FR Cup on Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Philsports Complex on Meralco Avenue in Pasig City.

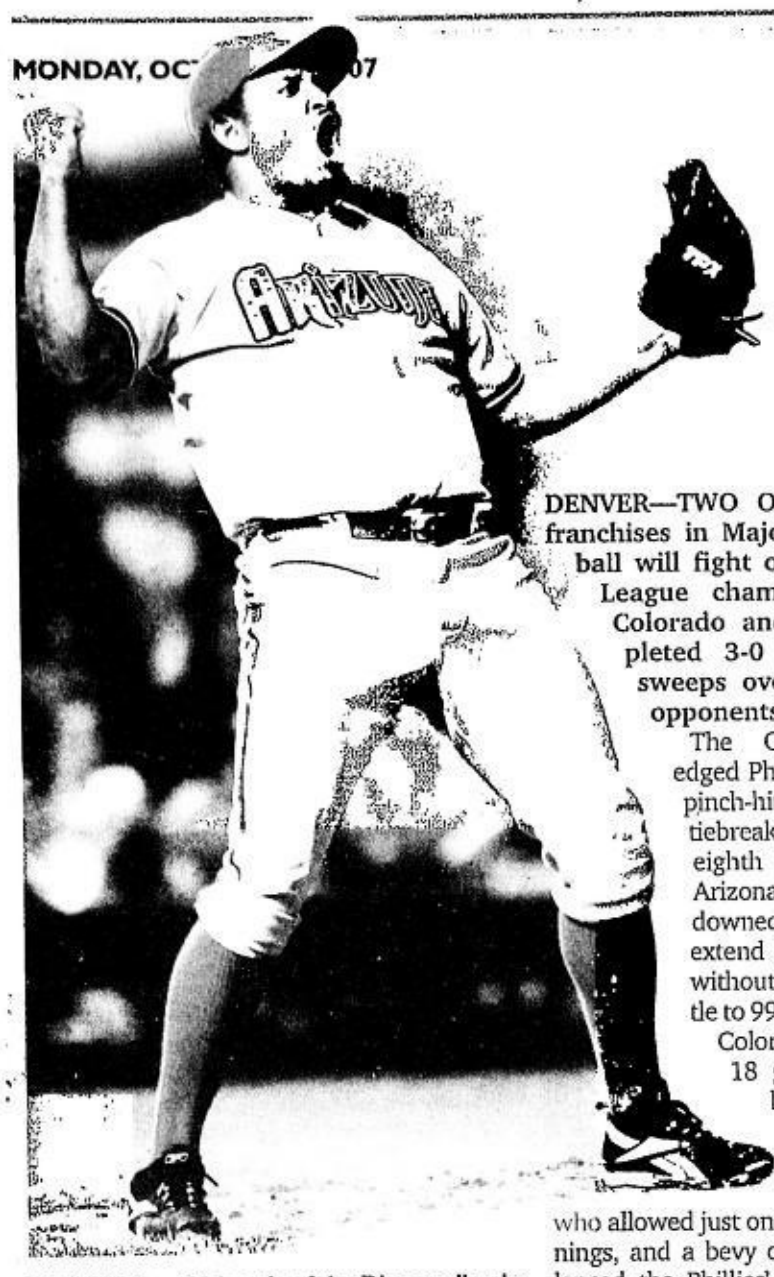
DSCP president Becky Garcia said dancers from all over the country are competing in both the Latin and Standard disciplines. Five International Dance Sport Federation (IDSF)-licensed adjudicators from Europe and Asia will officiate the event.

Assisting Ms Garcia in organizing the event are DSCP board of directors lawyer Noel Laman, chair; lawyer Josefina de Vera-Saliva, secretary general; Gloria Alcala, treasurer; and board members lawyer Andy Fornier, Marvie Cojuangco-Yulo, Ambassador Antonio Lagdameo, Edward Hayco, Ruby Co, Chona Mercado, Nanette Mendoza, Emma Nieto, Rebecca Jose, Victoria Alix and Crisaldo Rendon.

Tickets are available at the Dance Sport Training Center at the Philsports Complex. For inquiries call 6350116.



FBL OPENING GUEST
Eric Altamirano, former PBA coach and youth development director for Metro Manila of Samahang Basketbolista ng Pilipinas (standing at left), addresses the participating teams at the recent opening of the Futures Basketball League's third season at the Xavier Gym in Greenhills. The grassroots development league draws support this year from Primovit multivitamins, Gatorade and Purefoods TJ Hotdogs.



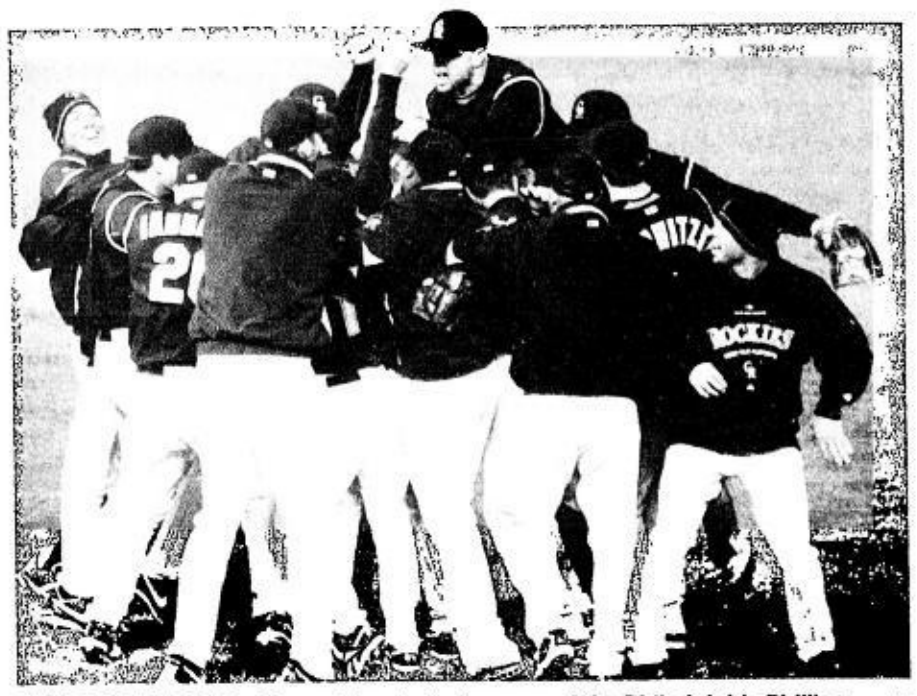
PITCHER Jose Valverde of the Diamondbacks whoops it up after claiming the final out. AFP

Rockies, D'backs sweep foes, forge NLCS battle

DENVER—TWO OF THE NEWER franchises in Major League Baseball will fight out the National League championship, after Colorado and Arizona completed 3-0 division series sweeps over more storied opponents Saturday.

The Colorado Rockies edged Philadelphia, 2-1, on pinch-hitter Jeff Baker's tiebreaking single in the eighth inning, while the Arizona Diamondbacks downed Chicago, 5-1, to extend the Cubs drought without a World Series title to 99 years.

Colorado's 17th win in 18 games was fueled by Ubaldo Jimenez, the hard-throwing 23-year-old starting pitcher who allowed just one run over 6 1-3 innings, and a bevy of relievers who silenced the Phillies' bats for the third straight game.



THE COLORADO Rockies celebrate their sweep of the Philadelphia Phillies. AP

The wild-card Rockies get four days off before opening the NL Championship Series on Thursday in Arizona, the first time two teams from the NL West division have met in the league decider.

The Colorado-Philadelphia series was supposed to be a slugfest between the NL's two highest-scoring teams—in two of the most hitter-friendly ballparks in baseball.

With two outs in the eighth, Colorado's Garrett Atkins and Brad Hawpe hit back-to-back singles off JC Romero to put runners on first and third base. After a conference on the mound, Romero stayed in, but then Baker sliced a hit between first baseman Ryan Howard and second baseman Chase Utley for what proved the winner.

In Chicago, Chris Young homered on the game's first pitch to set Arizona on its way to a sweep of the hapless Cubs, for whom 2008 will mark a century without winning the big one.

It will be a surprise NLCS appearance for the young Diamondbacks, whose roster contained just four players with post-season experience.

"Who would have thought that at the beginning of spring training or the season? I'm sure there were a lot of people thinking maybe .500 baseball," Eric Byrnes said during a champagne celebration. "We have guys who are ready to win." *AP*

France, England rock rugby World Cup with shocking upsets

CARDIFF, WALES—FRANCE AND ENGland were the ones supposed to be packing their bags.

Instead, the two rank outsiders will meet in next week's semifinals, and tournament favorite New Zealand and two-time winner Australia will be sharing a flight back after being dumped out of the rugby World Cup.

"We were supposed to get hammered and we didn't. We know what we are capable of," France lock Sebastien Chabal said. "The northern hemisphere is there again and at the right time."

The northern hemisphere, considered by most observers to be way adrift of the southern hemisphere, is guaranteed a place in the final on Oct. 20 after France downed the All Blacks 20-18 and England knocked out Australia 12-10 for a double-whammy on Saturday.

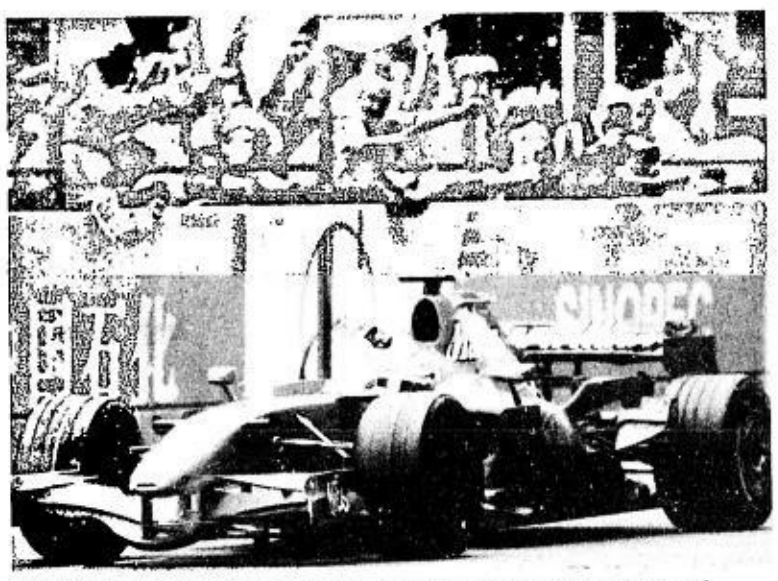
"The southern hemisphere was seen as too beautiful," France fullback Damien Traille said after Les Tricolores' stunning comeback win. "They needed only three pool games to qualify. But it's true that they were in easier groups."

France winger Vincent Clerc said talk of the northern hemisphere's apparent weakness spurred the players to prove the doubters wrong.

"I think you (the media) underestimated the northern hemisphere," Clerc said. "Of course they (New Zealand) dominated their group, but we never doubted."

He drew a parallel between the derision aimed at France after a 17-12 loss to Argentina to open the tournament, and the heavy criticism endured by England after being blanked 36-0 by South Africa.

"We know the English. We know their qualities," Clerc said. "They started laboriously and then they pull out a match like that." *AP*



FERRARI star Kimi Raikkonen pumps a fist at his team crew and supporters after ruling the Chinese Grand Prix. AP

Raikkonen victory, Hamilton disaster opens F1 title race

SHANGHAI, CHINA—KIMI Raikkonen of Ferrari won the Chinese Formula One Grand Prix on Sunday as McLaren's Lewis Hamilton missed his chance to clinch the drivers' title by running off the track while entering the pits.

Fernando Alonso of McLaren was second with Felipe Massa of Ferrari third.

The championship will now go down to the final race in Brazil on Oct. 21 with three drivers capable of winning the title.

Hamilton has 107 points, Alonso has 103 and Raikkonen 100. A win is worth 10 points. Second through eight is at 8-6-5-4-3-2-1.

Hamilton ran off the track and into a gravel trap while entering pit lane after 31 laps.

"Just unfortunate," Hamilton said.

"We still have got one more race to go," Hamilton said. "We're still ahead."

Alonso said it would take another upset in Brazil for him to clinch a third successive world title.

"It will be very, very difficult, the championship," Alonso said. "I know it will not be easy to take four points from Lewis.

"For the championship, I still need something dramatic for to win. With a normal race it will be impossible."

Raikkonen would need even more unusual circumstances to clinch the title in Brazil, but was buoyed by Sunday's victory.

"We just have to win the race and see what happens to the others," Raikkonen said.

"We saw today anything can happen. We are just in a better position than we came here but still it will be difficult."

Hamilton started from pole knowing he only needed to finish ahead of Alonso to become the first rookie to win the drivers' title, but rain began to fall just as the drivers began the warm-up formation lap.

Eight laps into the race it stopped raining and a dry line emerged on the track. By that time Hamilton was leading, more than five seconds ahead of Raikkonen and nine up on Massa. Alonso was 11 seconds back.

Hamilton was the first to pit after 15 laps, giving Raikkonen the lead for four laps. *AP*

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ILIGAN MILO QUALIFYING

Torrid victory for Torred

ILIGAN CITY—STRIPPED OF THE TITLE HERE LAST YEAR DUE to a rule infraction, Demetrio Torred showed he deserved the victory when he topped yesterday's elimination race of the 31st annual National Milo Marathon here.

Torred was the fastest runner here last year but was disqualified after organizers found out he ran in the 5K side event of the previous Cagayan de Oro City leg.

Unlike last year when Torred faced little opposition, he ran a tough race this time, outsprinting a five-man pack to win the men's 21K race in one hour, 15 minutes and 23 seconds.

A close second was Jeffrey Sotto who came in 15 seconds behind. Bryan Quiamco placed third 1:16:13.

"Runners can only win once, either in the 21K or 5K, in the same season," national race director Rudy Biscocho said, recalling Torred's case.

"We use our biometric system to verify the 5K and 21K winners and to store their information in our database. The computer tells us when the runner has already won in another leg."

Niecel Topia ruled the women's 21K elimination race, one week after sister Cecille Faith ruled the Cagayan de Oro City leg.

Topia won with a time of 1:38:57. Helen Tacling (1:40:13) and Angelita Castillon (1:49:17) placed second and third, respectively.

The top three finishers in the men's and women's races advance to the grand finals in Metro Manila on Nov. 18.

The top finishers in the 5K side event were Mansawi Lala (16:29), Kenneth Torred (16:30) and Bernie Canillo (16:34) in the men's division. Liza Mae Gremotea (23:02), Mary Grace Villaver (23:33) and Florence Velez (23:41) topped the distaff side.

The winners in the 3K race for kids were Jay Alon and Richie Dala in the 6-9 age group and Alexander Garcia Jr. and Mayeth Lagrimas in the 10-12 category.

Iligan City National High School won the inter-school team competition.

The country's biggest and longest-running foot race caps its Northern Mindanao sortie on Sunday, Oct. 14, in Butuan City. *With a report from Romina S. Austria*

Calatagan, ICTSI bets resume showdown

A SHOWDOWN AMONG THE COUNtry's crack parbusters looms when the Pilipinas Amateur Golf Tour presented by Samsung resumes today with its fourth leg at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa City .

Players backed by port services giant International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) led by Ferdie Aunzo, Michael Bibat, Gene Bondoc and Dante Bisera will be challenged by the Calatagan boys led by two-leg champion Rufino Bayron and the Malarayat stalwarts headed by club champion Abe Avena and Gerald Katigbak.

Also expected to see action in the 54-hole Championship division after representing the Philippines in the recent Nomura Cup are Jonel Ababa, Mark Fernando, Tonlits Asistio and James Ryan Lim.

The Nomura bets finished seventh in the tournament ruled by the Australians.

These scratch players and low handicappers, however, won't be teeing off until tomorrow due to the expanded field.

The men's Class C and D entries as well as the ladies will open their 36-hole tourney today while the men's Class A and B bets won't tee off until Wednesday.

Rufino, younger brother of Jay Bayron and winner of the first two legs at Pueblo de Oro and Riviera, looms as the player to watch.

Mark, champion of the third leg at Eagle Ridge, and Ababa, first winner of the National Caddies Open, as well as Aunzo, champion of the Sabah Open, are also tipped to battle it out for top honors in the penultimate leg of the series organized by the Professional Sports Management Inc.

In ladies play, newly crowned RP Amateur ladies champ Anya Tanpinco is the solid favorite. She will be challenged by Sarah Jane Ababa and Beverly Mendoza.

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Gov't seen raising economic growth targets

Impact of low inflation, stronger peso

IN THIS ISSUE

NO FREE LUNCH

Why the peso keeps rising /B2

P17B in investments earmarked for tourism support facilities /B7

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION MAY UPGRADE ITS ECONOMIC growth forecasts for this year and for 2008 as well as review other economic indicators to factor in the stronger-than-expected output so far, the government's chief economist said.

Acting Economic Planning Secretary Augusto Santos told reporters on Friday that there was a need for the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) to review economic growth, inflation and even the peso-dollar assumptions for 2007 and 2008 based on recent developments.

He said it would be possible to "adjust higher" the gross domestic product (GDP) target of 6.1-6.7 percent for this year.

GDP, the single most closely watched economic indicator, refers to the total amount of goods and services produced by the domestic economy in a given period.

In the first semester, the Philippines' GDP growth accelerated to a 20-year high of 7.3 percent from only 5.6 percent a year ago on stronger government spending for infrastructure and booming private consumption.

"But we don't have the numbers yet. I have to look at the numbers," he said.

For next year, the DBCC target is a GDP growth range of 6.1-6.8 percent.

Santos said the inflation rate was also very low, currently averaging at only 2.6 percent for the first nine months of the year.

The DBCC has set an inflation target range of 4-5 percent for this year, although the latest forecast is a much lower range of 2.6-3.1 percent. For next year, the target is a wider band of 3-5 percent.

"This is the reason why the BSP cut down rates, because inflation is low," Santos said. "Low inflation is good news because all the more that they can reduce rates, which would encourage borrowing."

He said one reason why inflation was benign was because of trade liberalization, which had reduced the prices of imported goods.

However, an expected slowdown in export earnings in the second semester is seen slowing growth. A possible slowdown in the US economy, the biggest consumer of Philippine exports, can also weigh down on the country's export earnings. Stiff

GOV'T/ B2

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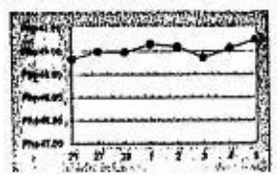

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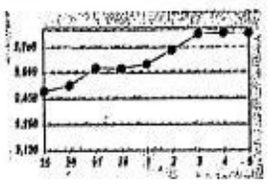

(See stock market report on Page B4)

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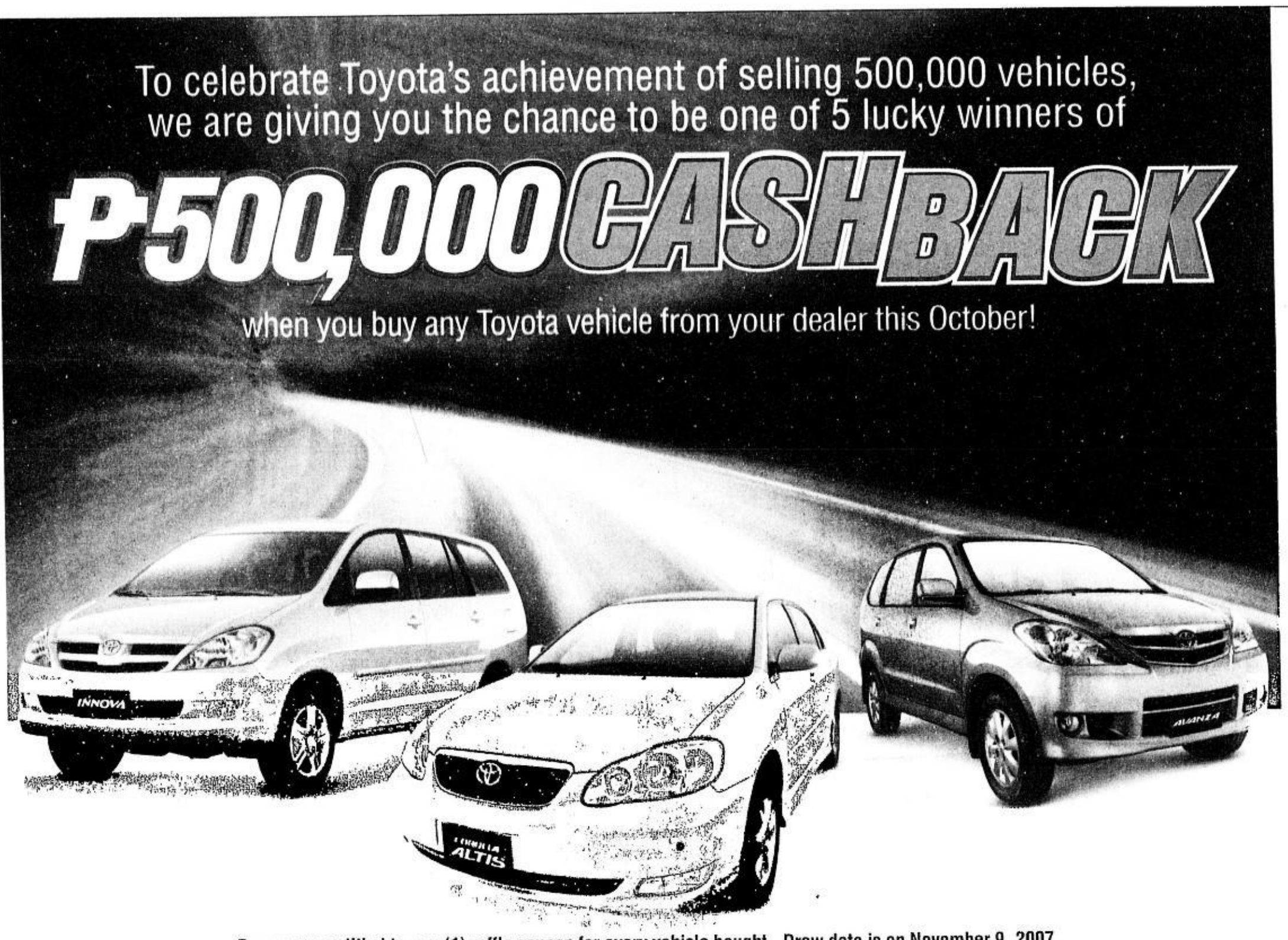

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Finance pushes retirement package for BIR, Customs

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE IS pushing for an attractive retirement package for employees and officers of the bureaus of Internal Revenue and of Customs to complement proposed legislative reforms to exempt the government's main collection agencies from the salary standardization law.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves told reporters on Friday that aside from getting the BIR and BOC out of salary standardization, thereby increasing employees' wages and giving them more incentive to meet collection goals, it was also important to maintain a "leaner bureaucracy."

He said he had suggested to legislators the idea of offering a "life after BIR or BOC" package as an enhancement to initiatives to increase the wages of these agencies' staff.

"You'll have resistance from within if you don't have a good retirement package. You have to make it very attractive. You have to give them life after BIR or BOC," Teves said.

"It's still an idea but when I broached it to regulators, they liked it. This is a better package than lateral attrition," he said.

The country's lateral attrition law provides for a system of rewards and penalties to plug huge tax leakages. It allows the government to provide rewards for those who meet revenue targets and to penalize those who fall short of targeted revenue goals.

Lateral attrition is defined by law as "the transfer in post or assignment and/or separation from government service, in accordance with Civil Service laws, rules and regulations, of internal revenue or customs officials/officers/employees and collection official/officers/employees of other revenue-generating units, who do not meet their respective revenue or collection goals for the year with all due considerations being taken."

Teves said his proposed retirement package would yield long-term benefits, but could not be implemented overnight.

"We have to work on structures, cultures," he said. "But I don't know if it's easier said than done."

The idea of a golden parachute for retirees had been done "in small ways" at the state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines when he was its president, Teves said.

He said attractive retirement options were offered to the bank's drivers. Retirees were given the first crack at a leasing company owned by the bank that was hiring drivers.

Those who no longer wanted to work, Teves said, were given a P400,000 concessional financing package to start a business. The rate charged was only about 4 percent a year and the bank also offered entrepreneurship training programs.

Most of the affected employees, he said, transferred to the leasing company.

"The idea there is to make their retirement attractive," he said.

Asked whether the DOF would push for new tax measures to boost its recurring revenues, Teves said this year was out of the question.

"But by next year, we don't know, because if we're always being criticized for using privatization proceeds, the recourse there is for us to bring down expenditure and they don't want that either," he said.

He said it was not possible to meet the government's P63-billion deficit ceiling this year—or the balanced budget next year—without the proceeds from the sale of government assets.

Earlier this year, a bill was filed at the Lower House by Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez that sought an across-the-board 300-percent increase in the salaries of the 11,000 and 4,000 employees of the BIR and the BOC.

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Why the peso keeps rising

Cielito F. Habito

LAST WEEK, BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas (BSP) Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo was quoted as saying that the uptrend in the value of the peso vis-à-vis the dollar will continue for the rest of the year. This is in spite of jitters from rising oil prices and the credit crunch in the US, and notwithstanding the BSP's occasional intervention at the spot foreign exchange market to avoid drastic movements.

I agree with the BSP. Let me explain below why.

Confidence interval

We hear of forecasts that see the peso-dollar rate falling to 43 by yearend. Even bolder forecasts have it going down to the 40 level. When asked for my own fearless forecast for the exchange rate, I always point out that even economists like me are not well equipped to make accurate predictions about the level that the exchange rate will settle at within a particular time frame. Not even the most sophisticated mathematical models of the economy can capture all the key elements that go into the determination of the actual level of the exchange rate. I can make a reasonable prediction on the general direction the rate will take, but don't ask me what the rate will be.

Even if an economist or financial analyst were to give a number, the "confidence interval" of the estimate (i.e. the range of values the number could take with no statistically significant difference) would be so wide as to render the forecast of little use. For example, a confidence interval of plus or minus 5 percent on a P43:$1 exchange rate would mean that it could be anywhere between P41 to P45. And given recent developments, the confidence interval probably couldn't be narrower than that.

Continuing uptrend

Like the BSP, I believe the peso will continue to appreciate. By the way, I studiously avoid referring to the situation as having a "strong" or "strengthening" peso, because that word tends to convey the misleading notion that the peso's appreciation is a good thing. Most of us realize that the declining peso-dollar exchange rate is both good news and bad, depending on who's affected. I have already written before why under current circumstances, more Filipinos are probably hurt rather than helped by the peso's continuing rise relative to the dollar.

So why will the peso continue to rise? It's actually a classic illustration of the most fundamental principle in economics, the law of supply and demand. The law simply says that the price of something goes down when its supply increases, or demand for it decreases, or both—and vice versa. The dollar is getting cheaper (i.e., its peso price is falling) because supply of dollars in the country has been rising, while demand for it has also been falling.

Where does the supply come from? Foreign exchange comes in via export earnings, spending by foreign tourists, foreign investments, inward remittances from overseas Filipinos, and foreign borrowings. OFW remittances and foreign investment inflows are bringing in the surge in dollar supplies the most. As of July, $8.1 billion of remittances have already come in this year, a jump of 16 percent over last year's comparable figure. Net portfolio investment inflows (i.e., "hot" money) came up to $3.3 billion from January to August, more than 3 times the same amount last year. Net foreign direct investment inflows in the first six months rose 16 percent from last year, to $1.2 billion.

Export earnings (including exports of services such as call centers) continue to grow as well, albeit at a slower rate than before—and the slowdown is probably manifesting the expected effect of the appreciating peso. Foreign tourism also continues to grow, with Korea being the top source of our foreign tourists. Meanwhile, continuing foreign borrowings by both government and the private sector also add to the dollar supplies. And with the multibillion-dollar loans being offered to us by China alone, domestic dollar supplies would continue to be pumped up. Interestingly, Thailand has begun to deliberately turn away foreign funding for its major projects precisely to stem the tide of foreign exchange inflows.

Slower demand

But the rising peso is also the result of falling demand for the dollar. Demand comes mainly from importers, and Filipinos who wish to travel or invest abroad. Our imports actually fell in real terms in the first half of the year, dropping 11 percent in the second quarter—which is bad news considering that the bulk of our imports are production inputs, signaling a slower economy ahead. Demand for dollars by outbound Filipino tourists and investors is of far less significance at this time.

The supply and demand story thus easily explains why the dollar keeps getting cheaper. And the trends aren't about to change in the near future. The dollar outlook in the world markets is for continued weakening, especially with the US economy's current woes and the further easing of US money supply by the Fed. Thus, expect domestic dollar supplies to continue rising. Demand will rise somewhat if oil prices spike up, but it seems that the surging dollar supplies will continue to dominate the picture.

The dollar is at around P45 now. Expect it to get lower for some time to come.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

Gov't seen raising economic growth ...

From page B1

competition among global suppliers of electronic products is likewise seen depressing the export earnings of local manufacturers.

The BSP itself has cut its export growth forecast to 8 percent from the DBCC forecast of 11 percent.

Exporters have also complained about the adverse impact of the peso's strengthening against the dollar this year.

On the peso-dollar exchange rate assumption, the DBCC is still using a range of 46-48 to a dollar for this year and next.

To date, the peso is trading at the 44-45 levels against the greenback, having appreciated by more than 8 percent since the start of this year. Most analysts forecast a further uptrend for the peso until 2009.

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6% surcharge on erring banks OKd

Part of BSP penalty system overhaul

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS IS slapping a 6-percent yearly surcharge on fines left unpaid by delinquent banks.

BSP Deputy Governor for bank supervision and examination Nestor Espenilla Jr. said the Monetary Board approved last Friday the introduction of surcharges based on the prevailing "legal" interest rate benchmark in the country.

The move, according to Espenilla, is aimed at strengthening the enforcement of BSP regulations.

At the same time, the BSP is now providing a specific timeframe within which the penalties should be settled.

Once a decision to penalize was confirmed by the Monetary Board, he said, the regulated entity would be given 15 days to file an appeal.

The BSP earlier overhauled its penalty system to classify breach of banking regulations based on the gravity of offense and the erring bank's asset size. Banking sources said the BSP now wants to ensure that fines were settled promptly.

Sources said the fine-tuning of the penalty system was in preparation for the proposed changes in the central bank's charter, which seek to increase the maximum monetary penalty on banks from the current P30,000 per violation per day.

The BSP's revised penalty system puts into consideration "aggravating" or "mitigating" circumstances. For instance, an aggravating circumstance could be concealment of offense or inaction, while a mitigating factor could be evidence of good faith.

A circular earlier issued by the BSP clarified the definition of "serious" offense to cover any unsafe or unsound banking practice, whether act or omission, and may result to exposure to abnormal risk or loss.

A less serious offense was defined as a major act or omission that includes failure to comply with the requirements of banking laws, rules and regulations as well as directives having material impact on the bank's solvency, liquidity or profitability.

A minor offense includes acts or omissions which are procedural in nature, can be corrected immediately and do not have material impact on the solvency, liquidity and profitability of the bank.

The existing penalty system considers the violator's asset size, which means that a rural bank which has committed the same offense as that by a commercial bank will be slapped with a lower fine.

Under the proposed amendments to its charter filed in Congress, the BSP seeks authority to slap stiffer sanctions on erring banks and bank officers. For instance, criminal penalties for violation of banking laws and regulations will be increased from P200,000 to P2 million.

Under the draft charter, serious or grave violation by universal banks and commercial banks or their directors or officers will be slapped with the maximum daily fine of P300,000. Less serious violations will be charged with P150,000 and minor violations, P50,000 per day.

APC unit to start geothermal development

By Abigail L. Ho

ARAGORN POWER AND ENERGY CORP. (Apec), a subsidiary of listed firm APC Group Inc., said it was scheduled to start soon the development of a geothermal site in Kalinga.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, APC chair and president Willy Ocier said the company was making "significant progress" in securing the Free and Prior Informed Consent of the indigenous people living in the area.

He said this was the only remaining requirement on the company in relation to its acquisition of a concession for a geothermal site from the Department of Energy.

The company would be developing the Kalinga geothermal site in partnership with Guidance Power, which is also engaged in mining, he said.

Apec had filed applications with the DOE for two geothermal sites in the Cordilleras: Acupan in Benguet (27,500 hectares) and Batong Buhay in Kalinga (26,250 hectares).

The power generation potential of these two sites was placed at 20 MW and 120 MW to 200 MW, respectively.

APC also intends to develop an oil and gas prospect within the Cagayan Basin, in partnership with Monte Oro Resources and Energy Inc.

Monte Oro signed last July a farm-in agreement with Apec for Service Contract 48, which effectively gave it a 75-percent stake in the contract.

The agreement will be carried out in two phases. Under Phase 1, Monte Oro will shoulder all expenses related to the conduct of a geological and geophysical program on the petroleum block.

The company will pay for Apec's share in the work program, with a minimum estimated budget of $500,000.

In return, Monte Oro will get 30-percent equity in the service contract.

For Phase 2, subject to Department of Energy approval, Monte Oro will drill one well or conduct an aeromagnetic survey/detailed gravity on the site. This will be done from August this year to August 2008.

As with the first phase, Monte Oro will shoulder Apec's share of the expenses, with a minimum financial commitment of between $1.8 million and $2.2 million.

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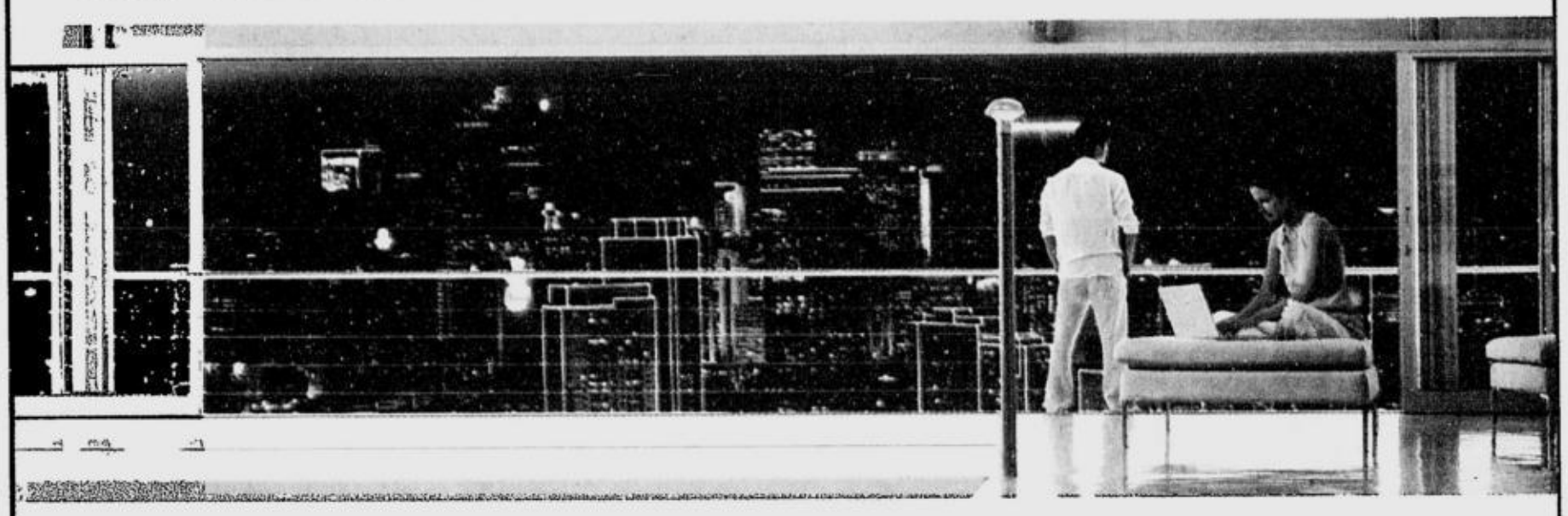

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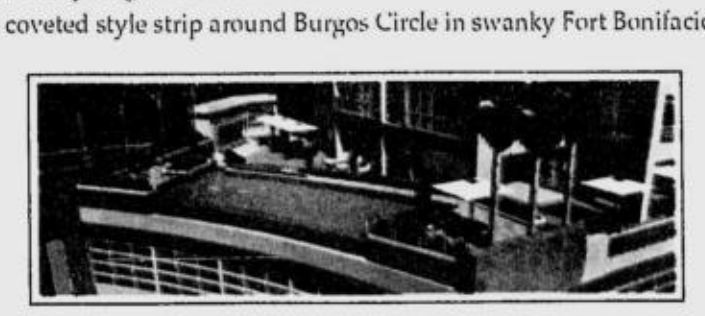

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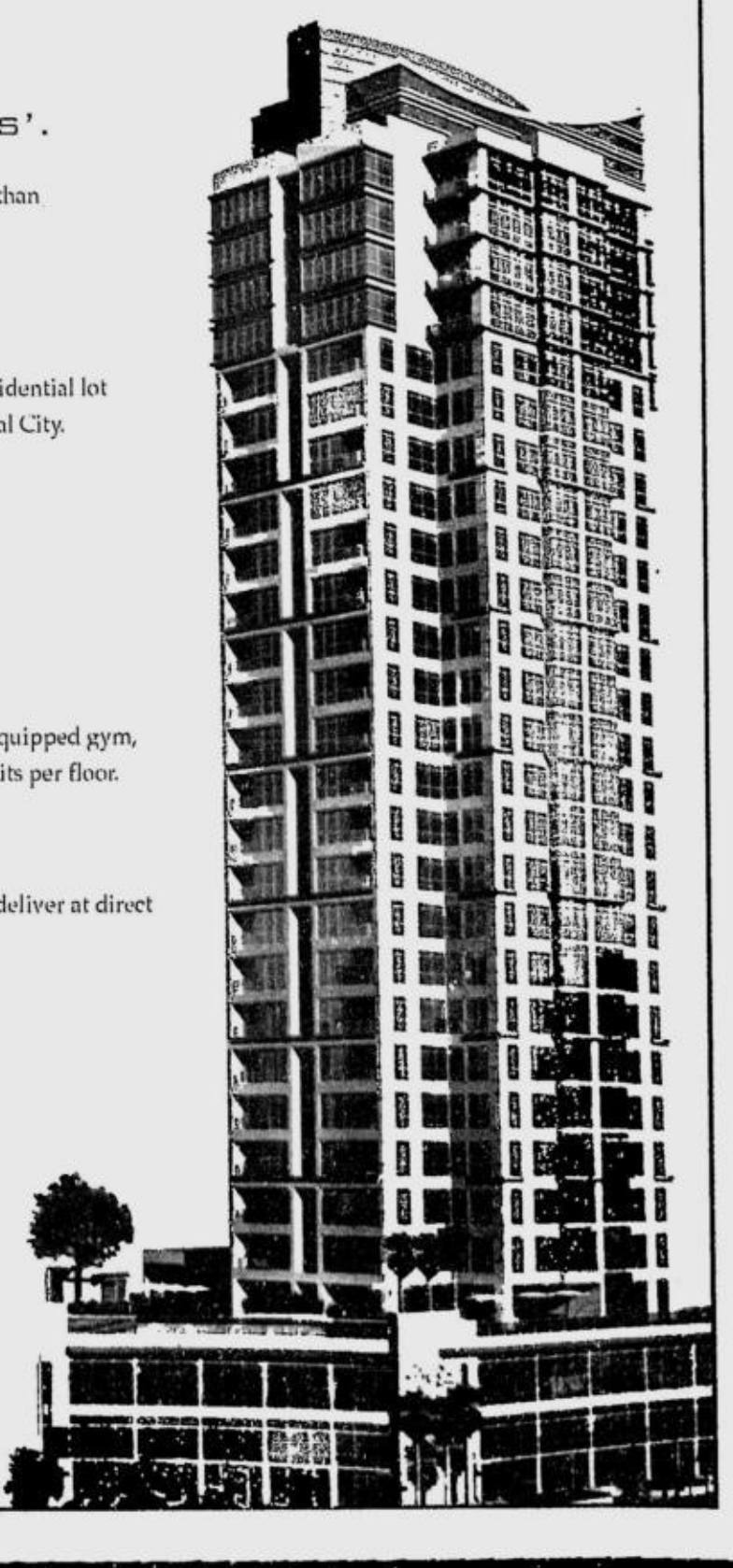

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Baguio Country Club	-	550,000
Camp John Hay	330,000	280,000
Canlubang Golf	500,000	440,000
Canyon Woods	90,000	-
Cebu Country Club	Pls. Call	2,100,000
Club Filipino	120,000	80,000
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Eastridge A/B*	100,000	Pls. Call
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Currencies

October 7, 2007

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Japan	Yen	0.006072	0.008586	0.3867
United Kingdom	Pound	1.441482	2.038400	91.8116
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.091146	0.128889	5.8053
Switzerland	Franc	0.602354	0.851789	38.3654
Canada	Dollar	0.709149	1.002808	45.1675
Singapore	Dollar	0.477781	0.675630	30.4311
Australia	Dollar	0.628199	0.888336	40.0115
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.876761	2.653928	119.5356
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.188950	0.267194	12.0347
Brunei	Dollar	0.476172	0.673355	30.3286
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.000110	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.022379	0.031646	1.4254
UAE	Dirham	0.192572	0.272316	12.2654
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.414100	63.6925
Korea	Won	0.000772	0.001092	0.0492
China	Yuan**	0.094103	0.133071	5.9937
Denmark	Kroner	0.134194	0.189764	8.5472
India	Rupee	0.017934	0.025361	1.1423
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.207470	0.293384	13.2143
New Zealand	Dollar	0.533708	0.754717	33.9932
Sweden	Kroner	0.108748	0.153780	6.9264
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021692	0.030675	1.3816

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Oct. 4, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Oct. 4, 2007

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BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	600,000	550,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	330,000	280,000
CANLUBANG	500,000	460,000
CAPITOL HILLS	40,000	-
CEBU COUNTRY CLUB	-	2,000,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	120,000	90,000
CLUB FILIPINO	140,000	90,000
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EAGLERIDGE "B"	250,000	220,000
EAGLERIDGE "C"	350,000	-
FOREST HILLS "A"	90,000	80,000
LUISITA GOLF "A"	350,000	250,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	Please Call	200,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	300,000	220,000
MANILA GOLF (CORP)	23,000,000	20,000,000
MANILA GOLF (IND)	20,000,000	18,000,000
MANILA POLO	Please Call	4,500,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	300,000	280,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	700,000	-
MANILA YACHT CLUB	190,000	-
MIMOSA (IND)	220,000	-
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ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	170,000	150,000
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	300,000	280,000
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	330,000	300,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	170,000	130,000
ROCKWELL CLUB	350,000	270,000
SPA & LODGE	500,000	450,000
STA. ELENA "A"	-	1,700,000
STA. ELENA "B"	-	1,800,000
TAGAYTAY COUNTRY CLUB	300,000	280,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	680,000	630,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	650,000	-
THE PALMS COUNTRY CLUB "A"	340,000	300,000
VALLE VERDE (IND)	100,000	90,000
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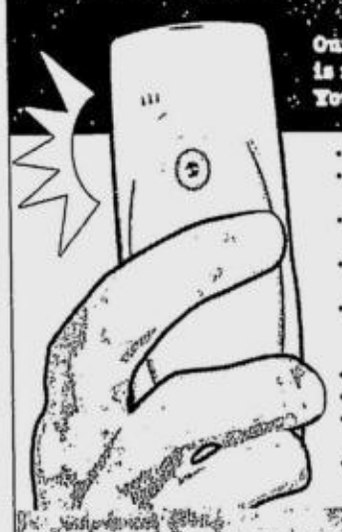

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 5, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
73	39.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc	63	63.5	61.5	61.5	1,554,800
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	70	71.5	70	70	2,055,700
748	504	China Banking Corp.	725	730	725	730	2,920
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	600
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.45	0.45	1,600,000
75.5	40	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	60	63	60	63	14,566,700
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	52.5	53.5	52.5	53	535,800
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	62.5	62.5	62.5	62.5	1,000
39.57	15	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	28.5	29	27.5	28	3,579,900
90	50	Security Bank Corp.	78	78	77.5	77.5	601,000
66	43.52	Union Bank of the Philippines	55.5	55.5	54	54	753,300
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc..	1.96	1.98	1.94	1.94	3,289,000
16.25	4.2	CitisecOnline.com Inc..	12	12.5	12	12.5	2,948,300
8.8	4.6	Filipino Fund Inc..	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	3,000
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	250,000
42	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	5,000
1,840.00	1,560.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,810.00	1,840.00	1,810.00	1,840.00	4,300
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.75	3.8	3.65	3.7	1,262,000
3.1	1.02	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc..	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	70,000
1,005.00	232	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	870	870	820	820	4,390
2,350.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc..	2,330.00	2,335.00	2,330.00	2,335.00	690
1.94	1.3	Vantage Corp	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	858,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.4	4,037,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.35	0.4	0.35	0.38	1,160,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	68.5	68.5	67.5	68	1,051,900
92	50	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	86	86	83.5	84	175,500
16	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	15	15	14.25	14.25	3,651,100
105.45	18.18	Manila Electric Co.	87	87	83.5	84.5	1,434,100
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.7	7.8	7.6	7.7	51,985,000
6.5	3.9	Petron Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.8	2,038,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.5	109,000
1.9	0.99	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	615,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	524,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc..	1.86	2.1	1.86	2.08	12,033,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	25	26.5	25	26.5	20,100
61	35.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	53	53	52.5	52.5	412,100
9.1	4.95	Pancake House Inc..	8.7	9.1	8.6	9.1	78,000
0.98	0.44	RFM Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	1,380,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	123,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	61.5	62	61.5	62	32,600
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	64.5	64.5	64	64.5	271,100
4.7	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc..	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	16	16	2,027,200
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.4	580,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.69	E&I Corp.	4.65	4.65	4.55	4.65	429,000
21.5	6	Federal Chemicals Inc..	10	11	10	10.5	2,089,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc..	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3	1,913,000
2	0.3	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc	1.38	1.42	1.3	1.38	31,871,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc	4.55	4.65	4.55	4.65	2,444,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp	1	1	0.98	1	280,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.74	0.14	Rex Industrial Inc	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31	1,182,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.08	A. Soriano Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.25	3.25	9,000
0.17	0.026	AJD.net Holdings Inc..	0.125	0.125	0.115	0.115	49,120,000
1.28	0.22	APC Group Inc.	0.84	0.86	0.8	0.82	17,220,000
3.6	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc.. "A"	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	20,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc.. "A"	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	14,000,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc.. "B"	0.012	0.014	0.012	0.014	6,000,000
9.7	5.3	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc..	7.1	7.1	7	7	1,260,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.016	0.018	320,400,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc..	6	6.1	5.9	5.9	30,176,000
1.38	0.52	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc..	0.89	0.89	0.86	0.86	200,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.4	2.44	2.4	2.4	2,593,000
16	4.5	Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.. "A"	8.2	9.2	8.2	9.2	3,000
615	377.08	Ayala Corp.	600	600	565	575	457,930
5.8	1.28	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.4	4.5	4.35	4.35	5,418,000
10.25	3.85	DMCI Holdings Inc..	9	9	9	9	1,761,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc..	4.3	4.35	4.3	4.35	38,000
2.5	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.56	30,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.7	7	6.7	6.7	4,073,000
3.55	1.26	House of Investments Inc..	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	5,000
14.5	6.6	JG Summit Holdings Inc..	11.25	11.5	11	11.5	2,280,900
5.9	0.61	Jollyville Holdings Corp	1.82	1.82	1.78	1.78	65,000
0.8	0.205	MEDCO Holdings Inc..	0.55	0.57	0.55	0.57	100,000
0.95	0.195	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	40,000
11.5	1.12	Multitech Investments Corp.	6.3	7.7	6.1	7.5	27,229,000
0.27	0.01	Pacifica Inc.. "A"	0.25	0.27	0.235	0.27	1,924,610,000
0.75	0.18	Prime Orion Philippines Inc..	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.48	8,170,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.66	30,000
452.5	237.84	SM Investments Corp.	410	412.5	392.5	410	270,360
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	3,000
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.44	0.45	0.43	0.43	8,550,000
1.06	0.6	Solid Group Inc..	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	280,000
1.6	0.9	South China Resources Inc..	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	350,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18	18.25	18	18	4,500
0.75	0.1	Welley Industries Inc	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.38	7,050,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.98	A Brown Co. Inc..	1.48	1.5	1.46	1.46	297,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.5	7.7	221,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.71	130,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc..	17.25	17.5	17	17.25	16,974,700
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.3	1.32	1.26	1.28	2,031,000
4.7	2.75	Cebu Holdings Inc..	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.5	72,000
0.86	0.32	Crown Equities Inc..	0.72	0.72	0.67	0.67	240,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.51	0.52	0.5	0.5	2,750,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc..	0.79	0.8	0.78	0.78	24,150,000
0.47	0.05	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc..	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.29	61,000,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc..	1.26	1.28	1.22	1.24	16,438,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc..	1.88	1.88	1.8	1.82	24,350,000
0.49	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc.. "A"	0.34	0.34	0.31	0.31	620,000
0.5	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc.. "B"	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.36	150,000
3.3	2.16	Highlands Prime Inc..	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	21,000
2.9	1	Keppel Philippines Properties Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	3,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc..	0.61	0.65	0.61	0.64	13,680,000
4.4	1.75	Megaworld Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.25	147,219,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.25	296,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	310,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.65	0.61	0.62	15,430,000
23	12.5	Robinson Land Corp.	18.75	19.5	18.75	19.5	6,595,300
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.45	1,848,000
13.5	6.64	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	5,065,500
3.25	1.18	Shang Properties Inc..	2.4	2.42	2.4	2.4	2,808,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc..	0.71	0.71	0.68	0.68	1,870,000
0.49	0.085	Uniwide Holdings Inc..	0.29	0.31	0.28	0.29	27,700,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	6	6.1	5.9	6.1	43,768,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	17	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32	32	32	32	54,600
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc	9.5	9.5	9.1	9.1	921,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.52	1.54	1.48	1.52	9,727,000
1,620.00	1,060.00	Globe Telecom Inc..	1,615.00	1,620.00	1,595.00	1,620.00	106,550
3,105.00	2,150.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,080.00	3,105.00	3,080.00	3,100.00	127,210
7.9	4.5	Philcom Telephone Corp	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.5	11,215,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.205	0.21	14,490,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc..	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	12,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	9.5	9.5	9.1	9.1	2,390,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.046	0.046	0.044	0.045	127,800,000
29.5	8	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	18.5	18.5	17	17	38,000
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc..	1.86	1.86	1.8	1.8	154,000
0.32	0.043	Island Information and Technology Inc..	0.22	0.225	0.205	0.225	235,700,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.34	123,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb Com Inc	0.06	0.06	0.0575	0.06	469,300,000
5.8	1.3	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc	2.7	2.75	2.55	2.6	1,464,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.42	1.46	1.42	1.46	286,000
6.8	3.5	Asian Terminals Inc..	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	169,000
40	17.25	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc..	39	39	37.5	37.5	752,600
2.04	1.04	Lorenzo Shipping Corp	1.18	1.32	1.18	1.32	2,300
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	334,000
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc..	0.65	0.67	0.65	0.66	810,000
1.2	0.43	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	100,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.94	Macroasia Corp.	5.3	5.3	5	5.1	1,315,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.75	101,700
30	11.25	Rustans Inc	12.75	12.75	11.25	11.25	3,016,400
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	166,800,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc.. "A"	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.7	110,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc.. "B"	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	94,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.5	16	15.5	15.75	3,215,400
14.25	6.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	5,000
5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc..	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	87,000
3.1	0.52	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc..	2.7	2.75	2.6	2.6	68,350,000
0.37	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	8,520,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	4,340,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.029	85,800,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	29,700,000
30	1.2	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc..	20	20.75	19.25	20.5	5,656,500
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	1,185,700,000
8.5	3.45	Philex Mining Corp.	8.1	8.1	7.9	8.1	11,640,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	36	36	36	36	800
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1	1.02	1	1.02	76,000
1.8	0.56	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.32	1.32	1.28	1.28	1,825,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	3,380,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.029	0.029	0.027	0.027	717,200,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.028	268,100,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10	10.5	10	10.25	22,400
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.029	0.031	1,685,600,000

	AVERAGES		VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	962.69 UP	8.09	33,956,900	1,435,569,565.00
Industrial	4,685.35 DOWN	66.81	257,587,700	955,360,530.00
Holding Firms	2,142.47 DOWN	40.25	2,431,812,190	1,376,494,720.00
Property	1,742.93 DOWN	1.49	416,037,500	1,519,278,855.00
Service	1,851.26 UP	22.92	880,667,980	1,040,107,077.67
Mining & Oil	7,676.02 DOWN	58.71	4,246,222,100	546,789,925.00
All Shares Index	2,362.97 DOWN	0.87		
PSEi	3,775.91 UP	0.45		
		GRAND TOTALS	8,266,284,370	6,873,600,672.67

DA sets up loan program

By Amy R. Remo

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY ARTHUR C. Yap has approved guidelines for the implementation of the P200-million Agri-Fishery Microfinance Program, a new financing scheme for farmers.

With microfinance placed as one of the agriculture sector's top five priorities, the AFMP seeks to increase the amount of credit support to priority commodities and special priority zones.

Priority commodities include rice, corn, high value crops such as banana, rubber, pineapple and vegetables, poultry, livestock and fishery products.

According to the DA, the AFMP will have two components: The microfinance and the value chain financing modules.

The microfinance module will enable credit retailers to extend smaller loans to small farming or fishing households for any or a combination of farm, off-farm and nonfarm activities.

Small farmers and fishers can borrow up to P50,000, depending on their repayment capacity.

Meanwhile, the value chain financing module allows credit retailers to extend loans or financial services to support value chain activities, such as production, processing and marketing.

Recipients can borrow up to P100,000.

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PELAC Dollar Bond Fund	1.2962	1.2936
PELAC Global Bond Fund	1.2016	1.1972
PELAC Peso Fixed Income Fund	1.0267	1.0218
PELAC Peso Equity Fund	1.3970	1.3225
PELAC Balanced Fund	1.0363	0.9925

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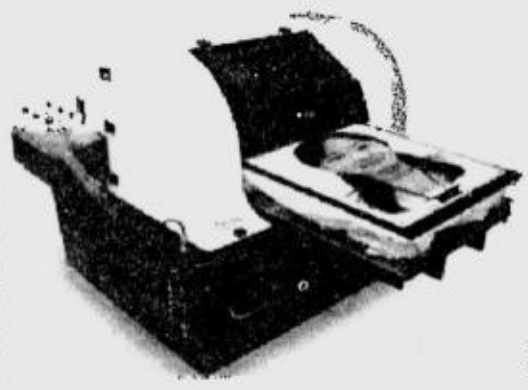

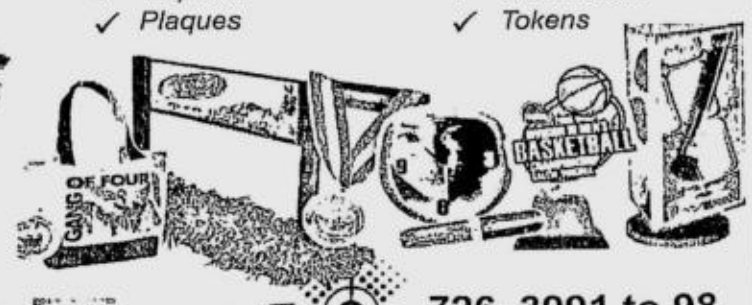

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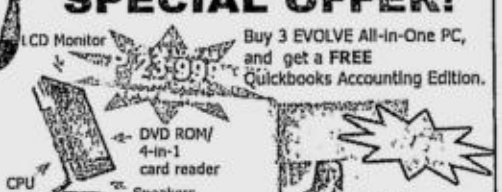

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SM group spending ₱10B to expand Mall of Asia

Office, hotel, leisure facilities to be added to shopping mall

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SM INVESTMENTS CORP. (SMIC), the holding firm of tycoon Henry Sy Sr., is investing P10 billion over the next five years to further develop the 60-hectare Mall of Asia complex in Pasay City by putting up office, hotel and leisure facilities.

At the heart of the complex is the country's biggest shopping mall, the SM Mall of Asia. Rising soon on the complex are a state-of-the-art business and information technology hub, the country's largest convention center, and a 16,000-seat sports and entertainment arena.

Coming on stream on Oct. 10 is the SM Mall of Asia Science and Discovery Center (SDC), a themed park devoted solely to science and technology.

SM Prime Holdings Inc. has partnered with US-based Leisure Entertainment Consultancy for the SDC, which will feature a digital planetarium and a wide range of technology and science-themed exhibits.

The Mall of Asia complex's proximity to the international airport, seaports, hotels and other commercial districts will also cater to the launch of SM's OneE-Com Center in November.

The 10-story OneE-Com Center is SMIC's answer to the growing demand for office space from business process outsourcing (BPO) firms. It will offer 76,000 square meters of leasable space to potential locators.

Also set to rise within the complex is the SMX Convention Center, which is envisioned to be the country's biggest venue for local and international trade and cultural events.

The P1.8-billion development will span 46,000 square meters and feature open exhibition areas, multifunctional halls and flexible meeting rooms with amenities for major conferences and trade exhibits.

The SMX Convention Center can fit approximately 6,000 people.

Another major development in the pipeline is the SM Arena, a sprawling indoor facility for big-time sports and entertainment events that can seat more than 16,000 spectators.

The SM Arena is expected to be the venue of choice for concerts and other entertainment-related events.

The SM Group will also construct a ferry terminal—to service guests and tourists who want to travel to Cavite City and Bataan and to SMIC's 5,300-hectare ecotourism estate in Nasugbu, Batangas, called Hamilo Coast.

The ferry terminal will be completed by 2009.

The Mall of Asia complex will also give rise to deluxe hotels, upscale offices and full-serviced apartments.

SMIC will start construction of a four-star hotel within the Mall of Asia complex next year under the Radisson brand. The hotel will have 400 guest rooms and will be operational in October 2009.

Crisis keeps Fed on track for new cut

NEW YORK—SICKLY CREDIT MARKETS and a worsening housing slump may force the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates again this month despite a less dire employment outlook.

Central bank officials have gone out of their way to argue that last month's aggressive half percentage point rate cut was not a bail out of Wall Street, but rather insurance against the broader effects of the credit crisis.

But despite modest signs of improvement in the credit markets, things are far from normal.

Getting worse

The housing market just keeps getting worse despite widespread forecasts it would soon hit bottom, a trend that could further compromise financial institutions and once again tighten the noose on lending.

This makes the Fed likely to cut rates again at it next meeting in the last two days of October, despite a new report showing the labor market is not faring as badly as once believed.

"Some traders may think that this will keep the Fed on the sidelines, but it doesn't take them out of the picture," said Gary Thayer, chief economist at A.G. Edwards & Sons.

Futures markets are now split down the middle regarding the chances of an October reduction in rates.

But even the employment report contains elements that would point to another Fed move.

The economy did add 110,000 new jobs in September, beating forecasts. August's surprise contraction was also revised away to show a gain of 89,000.

Yet the unemployment rate rose, dispelling fears by policymakers that a tight job market would put upward pressure on inflation.

"A rising unemployment rate is more or less a done deal," said Ian Shepherdson, chief US economist at High Frequency Economics. "Nothing motivates the Fed to cut rates more than a loosening labor market."

Subdued hiring

In addition, the trend of ever more subdued hiring remains firmly in place.

"What counts is that household employment has averaged just 100,000 over the past six months compared to 225,000 over the previous six months," Shepherdson added.

True, some of the worst dislocations in credit markets, which in part prompted the Fed to push rates lower, have subsided somewhat.

Commercial paper issuance over the past week showed its first signs of life since the credit crunch began in early August. Some key interbank lending rates, which had been behaving erratically, have come down. A decline in discount window borrowings also suggests banks are less need of immediate cash.

Record highs

This has encouraged investors to once again dip their toes into risky assets, with stock markets worldwide reaping the benefits—pushing major averages to record highs from Wall Street to Brazil.

However, analysts say the Fed's rate cut and, importantly, expectations of further steps, have largely underpinned this improvement.

Take away the stimulus, pessimists say, and the markets are back to square one.

And then there is history: It is very rare for the central banks to cut rates just once and then call it day.

"The economy is nowhere near recession, but that does not mean that the Fed does not need to be concerned about the problems we are seeing in the financial markets," said Mark Vitner, economist at Wachovia in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"Those problems are a threat to economic growth in the fourth quarter and the first quarter of next year. They are likely to cut rates again." *Reuters*

A MAN walks by an electronic stock board displaying the closing figure for the Hang Seng Index. Asian stock markets are expected to move up this week on the possibility of another cut in Fed rates. AP

Profit-taking seen to cap market climb

INVESTORS ARE EXPECTED TO START cashing in the gains from the market's strong rally last week.

Local stocks surged after investors cheered the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' decision to cut overnight interest rates and regional markets rebounded following Wall St.'s rise to record highs.

Jovis Vistan, head of research at AB Capital Securities, said the gains were capped when the PSEi encountered resistance at the 3,800 level.

At the end of the week, the Philippine main composite index closed 203.01 points or 5.68 percent higher week-on-week at 3,775.91.

"We believe that the PSEi will respect the 3,800 resistance as we still need more reasons for the stock market to justify setting new all time highs. Sentiments now are quite optimistic against the backdrop of a weakening global economy. This makes us believe that the market is indeed vulnerable to a correction," Vistan said.

"We may have seen the worst but our outlook remains cautious going forward," he said.

"I think the market is overbought so you can expect some profit-taking. On the other hand, this can change if the overall mood of the major markets remains upbeat," said Conrado Bate, president at CitisecOnline.com. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

Citi sees growth at Asia wealth unit

SINGAPORE—CITIGROUP'S newly created unit to serve Asia's super-rich plans to hire 10 high profile bankers and aims for annual revenue growth faster than its wealth business in Asia, the head of the unit told Reuters on Friday.

Business advice

The mega-wealth unit has been created to advise clients on investments, business alliances and wealth preservation.

Many of those customers would be billionaires in key centers such as Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Indonesia, said Akbar Shah, head of Citigroup's mega-wealth unit for Asia-Pacific.

"Ideally, I would have a team of 10 senior private bankers, with each banker managing 10 to 15 client relationships representing $2.5 billion in assets and earning $25 million in revenue each," Shah said.

The unit caters to people with at least $250 million in tangible net worth—such as businesses—including at least $50 million in investable assets.

Shah said his unit aims to beat the growth Citi's wealth management unit has seen in the last five years.

Citi's wealth management business in Asia has seen its revenue, net income and client assets grow at an average annual rate of 15-25 percent in the last five years, the bank said.

Citi's private banking arm, which targets clients who have $10 million in investable assets, says its private banking clients in the region included half of Asia's billionaires.

Asia's richest

The mega-wealth unit would base its bankers in Hong Kong and Singapore, where some of the wealthiest in Asia live, such as Asia's richest man Li Ka-shing.

Investment banks Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley also target super-rich clients who have at least $20 million in investable assets.

The private banking arm of UBS, the biggest wealth manager in the world, has a lower base, starting at clients with $1 million in assets.

Several new players have jumped into Asia, with an eye on the region's 2.6 million "high-net-worth individuals" who according to a Merrill Lynch/Capgemini report had $8.4 trillion of assets at the end of 2006.

Shah said there were tremendous opportunities because the super-rich have become more wealthy in the last three years.

Tremendous opportunities

"The larger families have made a lot of money, they have done well from a liquidity standpoint," he said.

"The question is really can you find enough stuff to give them that add values to them rather than just investing in their own business. Once they take that off the table, then you need to find them stuff."

Shah, a Citi veteran of more than two decades' service, was previously chief executive of Citi's Global Wealth Management business for the Middle East.

He said the bank is also arranging several meetings between prospective investors in Asia and the Middle East that may lead to future investments in the two regions.

"We have clients from Asia to travel to Abu Dhabi to see if there is anything in real estate," he said, while Middle Eastern families were also visiting Asia looking for opportunities in China and India. *Reuters*

India urged to back deal

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM—THE EUROPEAN Union's trade chief joined the United States on Friday in calling on India, Brazil and South Africa to back a draft trade deal that would see them reduce tariffs on industrial goods while the United States and Europe slash farm subsidies.

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said leading developing nations had to signal that they accepted what is on the table for both agriculture and industry.

"The EU, the US and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation nations have done so," he said. "India, South Africa and Brazil can send such a message at their summit on Oct. 17. It is important that they do so."

US Trade Representative Susan Schwab wrote in the Financial Times on Thursday that a pact to open up world trade was within reach but "could slip through our fingers unless a handful of major developed and developing countries demonstrate their willingness to confront difficult choices." *AP*

Wall Street seen rallying in fourth quarter

NEW YORK—ALTHOUGH THE prospects for a late October interest rate cut have dimmed, the chances for a yearend stock rally still seem quite good.

Investors have been feeling more confident since the Federal Reserve cut rates a half percentage point on Sept. 18, and were looking for a repeat at the Fed's Oct. 30-31 meeting to keep stocks driving higher.

But while a strong jobs report from the Labor Department lessened the likelihood of a rate cut this month, there's growing sentiment that one might not be needed for Wall Street to have its traditional fourth-quarter rally.

Market watchers believe upcoming reports might also point to a healthy economy, and might even help offset what is expected to be a sluggish earnings reporting season for US companies.

"The Fed and the markets will be watching all the incoming data very closely, but it really seems unlikely we'll get enough negative data that will force them to once again lower rates," said Michael Sheldon, chief market strategist at Spencer Clarke LLC. "It will take an awful lot to bring the Fed off the sidelines, and we're heading into a historically strong part of the year."

Indeed, the Dow Jones industrial average has rallied during the final quarter for the past nine years straight. The Standard & Poor's 500 index has had a fourth-quarter sprint in 13 of the past 15 years.

The current optimism is a turnaround from Wall Street's mood of just over a month ago, when any rally seemed in jeopardy amid a harrowing tightening of credit, continuing erosion in the housing sector and escalating energy prices. The Fed's half-point rate cut helped restore investors' faith in stocks and the economy overall.

Sheldon and other analysts say they are not all that concerned about what the Fed does later this month. That's already been reflected in the futures that track the federal funds rate, which dropped from almost unanimous expectation for a cut to about a 50-percent chance.

"The market is really in a sweet spot for a number of reasons," said Todd Salamone, director of trading at Schaeffer's Investment Research in Cincinnati. "You felt a rate cut coming if there was bad data, and more confidence in the economy if there was good data. You really couldn't lose, and that's where we want to stay."

Much of the data out in the coming weeks will only partly reflect the effects of the Sept. 18 rate cut. Because of this, investors might have already discounted any bad news that might come out, Salamone said.

Minutes from the Federal Reserve's last meeting will be released Tuesday and they will be closely monitored to gauge the Fed's inclination toward another cut. However, analysts believe the real key to sending stocks higher will be third-quarter earnings.

Strong results, or even those that simply keep pace with Wall Street's already lowered expectations, might keep the fourth-quarter rally going.

If third-quarter results become choppy, and if companies in their fourth-quarter forecasts hint that the worst might not be over, then fears of recession could again creep back into the market.

Standard & Poor's said blue chip companies in the third quarter will report the lowest growth rate in five years.

Members of the S&P 500 were originally expected to in the aggregate report a 2.4-percent gain for the quarter, but last week, the rating agency said it now expects a slight loss overall.

That forecast might be expected to dash hopes for a strong finish to the year. However, market watchers believe it might have the opposite effect—the fourth quarter historically is when companies take charges to balance out their books for the year, and most investors will be focused instead on forward-looking statements.

And, in an era where beating earnings expectations will send shares of those companies rallying, lowering the bar makes that easier to achieve.

"The most important point is that you have a ton of sideline money out there," Salamone said. "And, being able to jump through lower expectations might be enough to bring them back in." *AP*

₱17B in investments earmarked for tourism support facilities

Expansion of accommodation facilities, airports

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES and infrastructure support for the tourism sector is fast catching up with the growth in demand, as investments worth P17 billion were committed to the sector as of the first half.

In an interview, Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said the amount would provide 1,500 new rooms in world-class accommodation facilities that would be delivered by next year.

Durano said these included the Sofitel group's 400-room project in Cebu and Microtel Inn & Suites' 150 rooms at the SM Mall of Asia complex in Pasay City.

These are on top of some 3,000 new five-star rooms that would be built involving P130 billion worth of investments committed in 2006.

DURANO

"I am talking about projects that were registered with the DOT," he said. "Of course, there are others that did not pass through (our agencies)."

Durano said all of these projects helped to prepare the country in achieving the target of bringing in five million visitors by 2010.

"Related developments include the 'internationalization' of airports like Kalibo, which is already (done), and of Puerto Princesa, which is still underway," the tourism chief said.

He added that the airport in Busuanga was also being expanded to accommodate 50- to 70-seater aircraft.

"The addition of facilities and investments are ongoing and on schedule," Durano said. "This could keep up as long as we maintain the increase in demand."

He said the inflow of investments could go on for the next 20 years considering the potential of the tourism market.

Durano said investors were now responding with the uptrend in demand, unlike a few years back when people were doubtful whether investors would take on projects when there was no demand to justify these.

"Instead of the chicken-and-egg situation, we now have a virtuous cycle (of demand spurring supply that brings in more demand and so on)," the official said.

Durano said his department was improving on its strategy of focusing on markets and market segments that could immediately bring in droves of tourists.

The focus, he said, was still on the Koreans, who have become the largest group of visitors in the country overtaking the Americans.

The DOT aims at raising Korean arrivals to 650,000 this year and to a million by 2010, when they would account for a fifth of the total.

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WPI sees 20% sales growth

HOTEL CHAIN WATERFRONT PHILIPpines Inc. (WPI) of businessman William Gatchalian sees its room sales growing 20 percent starting this year with the launch of the company's online booking system last month.

Riding on the rising popularity of online booking for hotels, WPI took a major step in managing its own on-line booking system. The website is powered by Micros Fidelio, the world's leading provider of enterprise application for hospitality and retail industries worldwide, the firm said in a statement.

WPI is the first hotel chain in the country to manage its own e-reservations, where all its database and back-end operations are being done in the Philippines. This is unlike other hotels which farm out their online booking system to overseas companies.

Waterfront's marketing network covers 2,000 local and international travel agencies and 5,000 active corporate clients.

It has opened its doors to a global distribution system a couple of years ago by partnering with global online reservations and booking portals like Rates to Go, DirectWithHotels and Unirez Hotel Factory.

WPI's own Global Distribution System (GDS), which consists of its partnerships with global booking portals and its own online booking system, accounts for a fifth of its monthly room revenues with a growth rate of 30 percent in the first half.

The group is expecting an additional increase of 20 percent in room sales with its own online reservations system, from its year-to-date revenue of P342.7 million. The new website will serve not only walk-in clients and travelers, but also accredited travel agencies and corporate clients through password-protected rates.

Online bookers can make reservations in different languages—including Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Spanish and French.

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Rockwell Land plans to go public in 1st quarter 2008

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

ROCKWELL LAND CORP., THE REAL-ESTATE arm of the Lopez Group, is eyeing an initial public offering in the first quarter of 2008.

The move is expected to accelerate Benpres Holdings Corp.'s proposed asset divestment plan and the retirement of $400 million worth of debts.

Benpres is the listed flagship firm of the Lopez family with interests in power distribution and generation, broadcasting and cable operations, infrastructure, telecommunications, health care delivery and real-estate development.

Benpres president Angel Ong said the group was tapping CLSA, a brokerage house covering the Asia Pacific markets, as the underwriter for the planned IPO.

Benpres owns 24.5 percent stake of Rockwell Land and Ong said the holding firm might sell the entire stake.

The total book value of Rockwell Land was placed at P4.5 billion.

The size of the offer has yet to be set.

Rockwell Land is the developer of Rockwell Center in Makati, a prime 15-hectare, self-contained community. This was the site of a former power plant named after James Chapman Rockwell, the first president of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco).

The Rockwell Center is composed of several high-rise residential condominium projects, a sports and leisure club, and a lifestyle shopping center (PowerPlant mall). It also houses the corporate headquarters of Nestle and Phinma Corp., and the Ateneo Graduate School.

Rockwell Land was established in 1995 by three Lopez firms: Meralco, owning 51 percent, and First Philippine Holdings Corp. and Benpres with 24.5 percent each.

Another Rockwell Land project is "One Rockwell," the only high-rise residential condominium with z-shaped units. One Rockwell was launched in 2005 and was 55 percent sold last year.

Gov't may tap up to $300M in MCA assistance package

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES HAS LIKELY MET THE bulk of the qualification requirements for the United States' foreign assistance program called Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said.

This means the country may qualify for up to $300 million in fresh development package, Teves explained.

The MCA seeks to reward nations "that root out corruption, respect human rights, and adhere to the rule of law." Created by the United States in 2004, it provides incentives for policy reforms by rewarding countries with additional resources that complement bilateral US development programs and those of other donors.

Teves told reporters on Friday that he would meet with US Millenium Challenge Corp. in Washington DC at the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund-World Bank yearly meeting later this month to discuss the country's possible upgrade to the "compact" status, which will qualify the Philippines for larger funding.

Teves said the Philippines might now be qualified for the upgrade to the "compact" level because it had already met more than half of the requirements.

The MCA gives selected countries the opportunity to identify their priority programs to achieve economic growth and poverty reduction.

These priorities are reflected in a "compact" that defines responsibilities and includes measurable objectives and targets to assess progress.

The "compact" also describes how the country will manage and implement its program, including how it will ensure financial accountability, transparency, and fair and open procurement.

The US development agency is expected to make a decision on the country's eligibility for bigger assistance in November.

"They are very supportive. They want us to move to compact level but there's a lot of competition. A lot of other countries are performing well," he added.

Teves said the US agency was particularly happy with the Philippine government's P1-billion counterpart funding for the reform programs pledged under the MCA, which was very rare for countries under its programs.

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By: Emilia Paz Olbes
Human Resource Division Chief

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When you think of heart and other related diseases, you think of Philippine Heart Center, a first priority hospital to go to. The PHC brand is so strong that it has influenced the creation of little heart/cardiovascular centers. There is a saying that "Imitation is the highest form of flattery (adulation)". For this alone we are proud to say our vision to be a leader in cardiovascular care is almost in our hands.

We are proud to say that most of our best and brightest cardiologists and surgeons in the country are graduates from our specialty residency training. The PHC as a name brand has reached outside its territory and now has an international impact as one of the chosen tertiary hospital to cater to medical tourism. Our Mission, Vision and Core Values has been ingrained in the organization's system that all plans, action and programs are aligned to it and this is because of strong leadership and committed people.

Our Human Resource (HR) Strategic Plans are focused on patient care, education and training, research work and public information. Our workforce belongs to varied professional group title like physicians, nurses, perfusionist, medical technologist, other paramedical and administrative positions, thus, training programs are given based on the different field of specialization.

The PHC culture, salaries, benefits, employee involvement, intensive trainings, seminars and programs improves the following:

1. Retention of employees
2. Lessen the turn-over rate
3. Increase performance output
4. Global competitiveness of staff
5. Continuous availability of qualified pool of applicants

Our people are the "Employees' Choice" of different big hospitals all over the world, if a foreign recruiter were to know that you are a current employee of PHC, you are already a priority hire. This only shows that PHC is also the "Employers' Choice" of recruiters abroad. Our former nurses and other paramedical staff handles supervisory positions in big hospitals in USA, Europe, Singapore and KSA. This shows how highly competitive our people are because of the growth and development that PHC provided when they were with us.

We are proud to say that in 2004, our Cardiovascular Nurse Practitioner Program was the PMAP Personnel Program of the Year.

The Human Resource philosophy "To attract, motivate, develop and retain competent people towards service excellence" resulted in the following performance of the company:

1. Retained and improved its status as the preferred hospital for patient care of cardiovascular diseases.
2. The top priority of nurses and paramedical staff as Employers' Choice.
3. The leader in education and training of residency fellows in the field of cardiology.
4. Active participation and winning entries of research papers here and abroad.
5. Financial viability for our hospital operation.
6. Intensive public information through medical missions, handouts and BLS and ACLS seminars open to the public.
7. The preferred hospital for affiliation of different schools for their paramedical profession i.e. Nurses, medical technologist, respiratory therapist, Radiologic Technician, etc.
8. Acquisition of world class medical equipments
9. Additional bed capacity
10. Acquisition of world class facilities
11. New building for our Nuclear Medicine Department
12. Inspired the creation of Support Program/Associations by our customers such as:
    - Heartthrob (open heart patients)
    - 3S – Stroke Survivor Society
    - Heartmates
13. Building of parking space for customers
14. On-going building of restaurant, fast food centers and other public services
15. Accessible and cheap medicines
16. Improved Queuing System
17. Improved Cycle/Response Time

The different and varied Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) that we have are most welcome activities by our employees from top to bottom because it meets the highest form of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs in motivation which is Self-Transcendence, the willingness to help others to connect to something beyond ego, to help others find self-fulfillment and realize their potential, it is already more on the spiritual level. Doing the CSR gives the participants a joy that the heart and soul feels, it also gives them a respite from the hospital work because it is done in different towns in the Philippines, like Vigan, Bicol, Davao, Tagbilaran, Cebu, Mindanao, etc. Employee Engagement and the Psychological Contract that we have with our people sustain their involvement in our CSR.

PHC as government hospital which caters to indigent patients has many restrictions, however, this does not prevent us from performing our mission to the best we can. A David can win over Goliath and so a PHC, a government hospital, can also win over multinational companies. Truly enough, Philippine Heart Center won over Goliaths and we shall serve as an inspiration to other government agencies that we can be at par with private corporations. **PHC with its state restrictions continue to soar beyond limits like a mighty eagle.**

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IT/PROCUREMENT/ENGINEERING
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E-Procurement Administrator • Procurement Assistant • Category Manager
Category or Technical Buyer • Maintenance Systems Engineer
Electrical Engineer • Mechanical Engineer • AutoCAD Operator

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QA Analysts • Printing and Packaging Leadman • Category Planner

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or at postal address **The URC Recruitment Team**
2/F Brittania Bldg. E.Rodriguez Ave., Bagong Ilog Pasig City.
Please indicate the position applied for.

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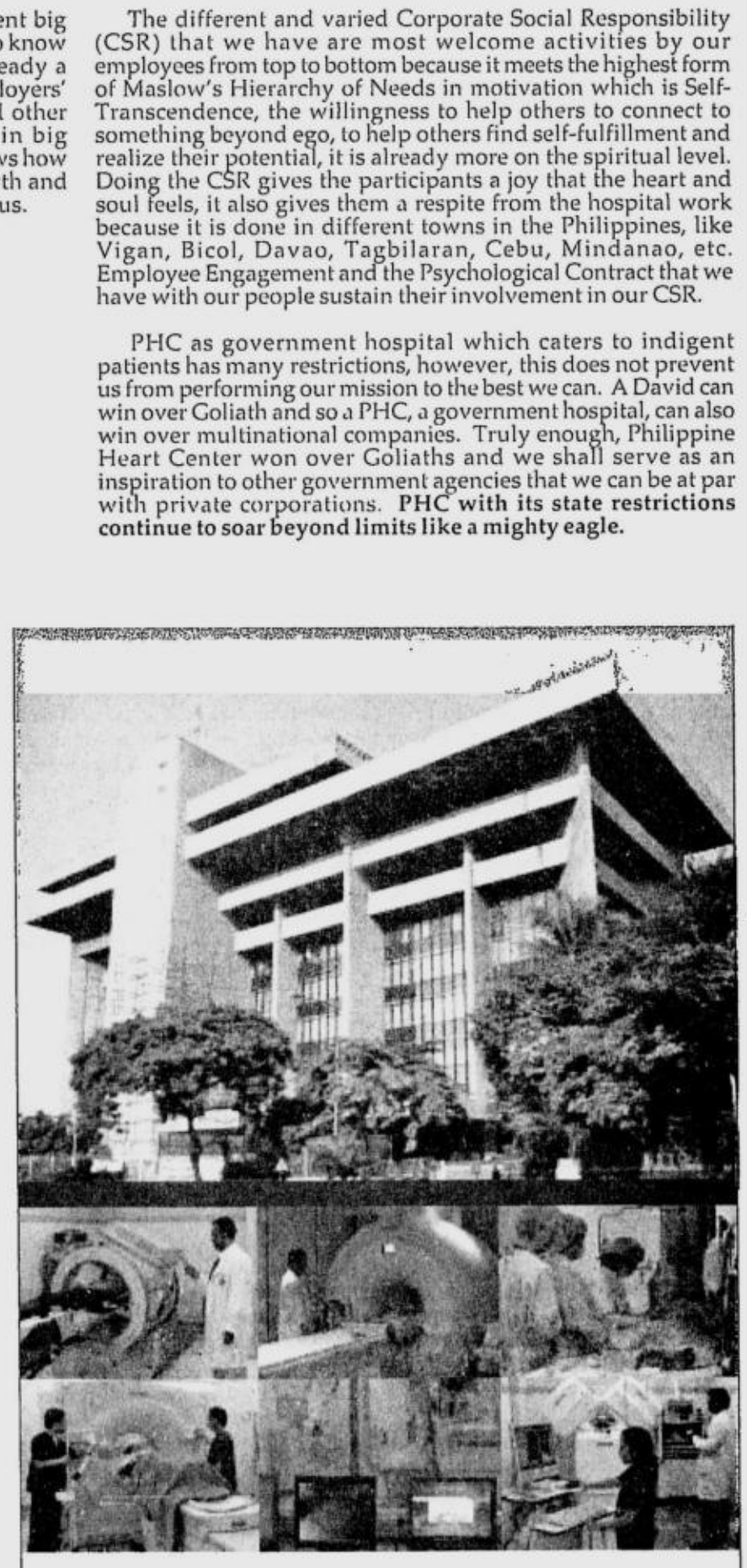

Philippine Heart Center
Center for Excellence in Cardiovascular Care

East Avenue, Quezon City www.phc.gov.ph (63-2) 922-0551 / 925-2401

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Regional Office 6
Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City
Tel. Nos. (033) 329-2165 / 320-6246
Fax No. (033) 3204764

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF BID OPENING FOR THE PROVISION OF CY 2008 SECURITY SERVICES FOR NFA REGION VI PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER: R06-2008-01

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that the opening of Bids for the provision of CY 2008 security services for NFA Region VI on Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. is cancelled in view of the issuance of BIR Memorandum Circular No. 39-2007 issued on June 13, 2007, which necessitates adjustment of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC).

(Sgd.) **VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA**
BAC Chairperson

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Regional Office 6
Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City
Tel. Nos. (033) 329-2165 / 320-6246
Fax No. (033) 3204764

RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, Region 6,** through its Corporate Budget for 2008 intends to apply the sum of ***Eleven Million Six Hundred Twenty Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Three Pesos & 20/100 (P11,620,843.20)*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the provision of Security Services for CY 2008, Project Reference Number *RO6-2008-05*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The **National Food Authority, Region 6** now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the provision of security services for its Regional/Provincial offices, owned and leased warehouses, other installations and facilities. Delivery of services is required upon receipt of Notice to Proceed until December 31, 2008. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **ITB.**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process of eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the **National Food Authority, Regional Office 6** and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below starting ***October 8 to 19, 2007 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of *Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00)*. The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The **National Food Authority** will hold a ***Pre-Bid Conference*** open to all interested parties on ***October 22, 2007 at 9:30 AM*** at the Iloilo Regional Office Conference Room, 2/F, National Food Authority, Jaro, Iloilo City.

Bid and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on ***November 5, 2007 not later than 9:30 A.M.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following form or combination thereof:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC to be bid
Cash, Cashier's/Manager's Check payable to NFA and issued by any reputable bank or	One Percent (1%)
Surety bond issued by GSIS marked "callable on demand"	Two & a Half Percent (2.5%)

Bid opening shall be on ***November 5, 2007 @ 9:30 A.M.*** at Iloilo Regional Office 6 Conference Room, 2/F, National Food Authority, Jaro, Iloilo City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend the bid opening. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The **National Food Authority** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA
Jaro, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 329-2165; 329-6307
Fax No. (033) 329-4764

(Sgd.) VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA
BAC Chairperson/ARD

(PDI - Oct. 8, 2007)

CAPIZ ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Established 1971
Timpas, Panitan, Capiz, Phils.
Tel. Nos. (036) 634-0282 to 84; 634-0487; 634-0330;
Fax/phone: 634-0264
email address: **capiz_electric_cooperative@yahoo.com**

INVITATION TO BID

Capiz Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAPELCO) Main Office at Timpas, Panitan, Capiz invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the materials needed for conversion of lines from 1 phase to 3 phase at Pob. Dumarao to Dacuton, Dumarao Capiz; from Pob. Jamindan to Camp Peralta, Jamindan, Capiz & reconductoring of 3 phase lines from crossing Angub, Cuartero Capiz to crossing Ayuyan, Dumalag, Capiz and rehabilitation of lines.

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00) to the Capiz Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAPELCO) main office cashier.

Activities	Schedule
Issuance of bid documents	October 8 to 12, 2007
Submission of requirements	October 15 to 16, 2007 @ 9:00 a.m.
Pre-bidding / Pre-qualification conference	October 17, 2007 @ 10:00 a.m.
Deadline of bid submission	October 19, 2007 @ 9:00 a.m.
Opening of bids	October 19, 2007 @ 10:00 a.m.

CAPELCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Electric Cooperative. For more information, please call IDSSD or TSD offices at telephone nos. (036) 6340-282 or 525-2003.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. JOVENCIO A. VILLAGRACIA**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-Oct. 6 & 8, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **ENTREX, INC.** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI - October 4 - 24, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **Liberty Aviation Corporation** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI - October 4 - 24, 2007)

CLARK FREEPORT PHILIPPINES

Office of the President
Republic of the Philippines
CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Clark Freeport Zone, Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Clark Development Corporation, through its Special Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	:	**Construction of Panday Pira Access Road**
Location	:	Clark Freeport Zone, Philippines
Brief Description	:	The project involves the Construction of 3.806 km Access Road from Dolores Interchange to Panday Pira Road
Approved Budget for the Contract	:	Php 102,535,195.76
Minimum PCAB License Category / Classification	:	General Engineering Medium B for Roads
Contract Duration	:	120 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The SBAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The SBAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).
The schedule of SBAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	*Schedule*
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOIs) including Application for Eligibility	Until October 16, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	October 8-16, 2007
3. Receipt and Opening of Eligibility Requirements	October 17, 2007 2:00 p.m.

The SBAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the Office of the SBAC Secretariat, upon their submission of an LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 1,000.00** to the CDC Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the SBAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the SBAC at the address below.

SBAC Secretariat
c/o Engineering, Construction and Maintenance Department
3rd Floor Bldg. 2125 E. Quirino Avenue
CDC Corporate Center, Clark Freeport Zone, Philippines
Tel. No. (045)5999000 local 744
e-mail: **sbac@clark.com.ph**
website: **www.clark.com.ph**

The SBAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the SBAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 20,000.00** to the CDC Cashier.

The Clark Development Corporation assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids. CDC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to contract of award, without thereby encountering any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Approved By :

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. GOROSPE**
SBAC Chairman

(PDI-Oct. 8, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PRESIDENTIAL BROADCAST STAFF-RTVM
MALACAÑANG, MANILA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	:	**Procurement of Various Teleprompting Equipment**
Location	:	RTVM Bldg., Gate 6, Malacañang, Manila
Approved Budget for the Contract	:	Php 3,326,322.00
Delivery Period	:	30 days

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/ fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Date	Time	Place
1) Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 1-14, 2007	10:00 AM to 5:00 PM	PBS-RTVM
2) Pre-Bidding Conference	Oct. 11, 2007 (as per bid bulletin TPE-001)	2:00 PM	PBS-RTVM
3) Last Day of Submission and Opening of Bids	Oct. 24, 2007	10:00 AM	PBS-RTVM

Bid Documents including details of specification will be available at the PBS-RTVM Procurement Section of the Admin. and Finance Division (c/o Mr. Cyrus M. Reputana) Tel Nos. 734-5681/735-6187 to prospective bidders only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 700.00 to the Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM Cashier.

The Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **Melba B. Allgaen**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 1 & 8, 2007)

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OBITUARIES

"Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to me." ***Psalm 116:7***

ATTY. DOMINGO GARCIA INGCO

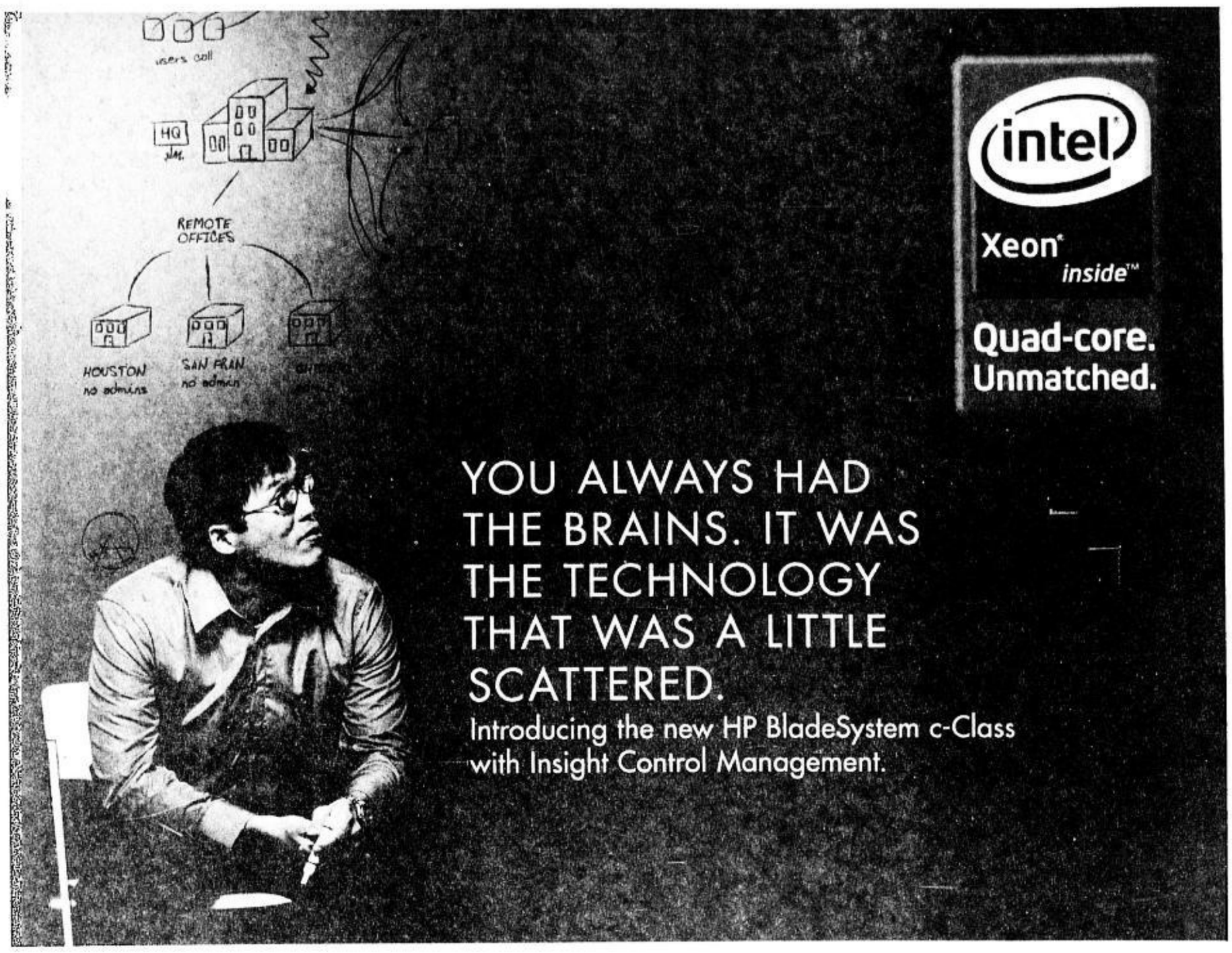
of Aplaya, Bauan, Batangas

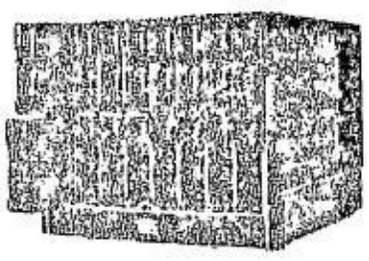
Died peacefully in the grace of our Lord on October 6, 2007 at the age of 81.

His wife **NORA** and daughter **DEEGEE**, aunt **OLIMPIA**, his sisters and brother **AZUCENA, SERGIO, MENA, LOURDES, MILAGROS, BEATRIZ**, in-laws **REYNALDO, SR., ESTELITA,** with **ARISTEO, MARIA GRACIA, DR. BEATRIZ** and other nieces and nephews, and **CLOTILDE, ABIGAIL, REGIUS, ANGELA, REIGN, RIZ, BETTY, MELISSA**, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Solace 1 Chapel, #12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will follow after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Wednesday, October 10, 2007.





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DOTC works out Luzon rail connection

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION and Communication (DOTC) is embarking on a project to interconnect the North and South rail lines by 2010.

In line with this target, Transport Secretary Leandro R. Mendoza has directed Philippine National Railways (PNR) general manager Jose Ma. Sarsola II and North Luzon Railway Corporation (NLRC) president Arsenio M. Bartolome, to conduct a study for the seamless operation and inter-operability of the North and South rail lines.

Mendoza said in a statement over the weekend that the establishment of seamless operation and inter-operability of the North and South rail systems will provide a fast, convenient and reliable transportation service, connecting the northern provinces of Luzon to the southern regions.

He expressed hope that the rail connection would spur trade in North and South Luzon, and provide more job opportunities, increase the income of producers, and stimulate social development opportunities in areas traversed by the rail systems.

He instructed PNR and NLRC to make sure that, once Phase 1 of the Northrail and Southrail projects are completed, seamless operation of the rail line will take place.

The Northrail-Southrail Linkage Phase 1 will traverse the cities of Caloocan and Muntinlupa, passing through the cities of Manila, Makati and Taguig. For Phase 2, the rail line will run from Alabang to the province of Calamba, Laguna.

PAL seeks to win back fliers from low-cost carriers

FLAG CARRIER PHILIPPINE AIRLINES is facing pressure from aggressively expanding low-cost carriers (LCCs).

Philippine Airlines president Jaime Bautista told reporters that, "while we retain loyal customers, LCCs are taking away many first-time fliers. Of course not everyone wants to pay for full service."

In the first semester of 2007, Cebu Pacific, the airline unit of the Gokongwei family, carried the most number of passengers among local airlines.

Data from the Civil Aeronautics Board said Cebu Pacific carried 2.25 million passengers, while PAL carried 1.98 million. Air Philippines, PAL's LCC unit, carried 544,340 passengers, Asian Spirit carried 248,456, and Southeast Asian Airlines, 136,588.

PAL is also being challenged by foreign LCCs, such as Tiger Airways and AirAsia, which operate from Metro Manila's second gateway in Clark.

But the flag carrier's profitability streak in recent years indicates that it has a good chance of sustaining growth despite the challenges, aviation consultancy Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA) said.

Facing up to its LCC challenge, PAL is embarking on another fleeting program and moving to start a hub in Clark. It has also asked the Philippine government to urge fellow governments in Asia to stop subsidizing their airlines.

Whatever the outcome of the government's policy on aviation access, PAL is in a better position to compete effectively than ever, CAPA said.

PAL has exited rehabilitation, and expects revenues for the next three fiscal years to rise steadily on the back of improving passenger and cargo operations. *Riza T. Olchondra*

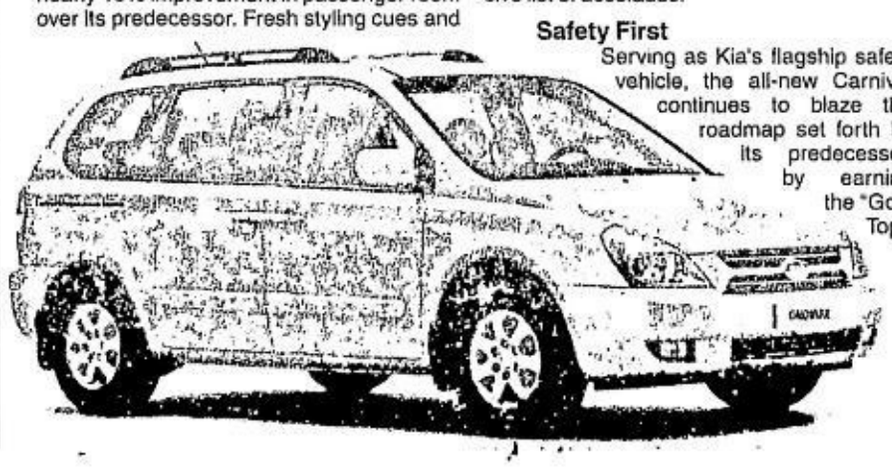
THE ALL-NEW KIA CARNIVAL - RELIABLE MULTI-PLAYER

Already a popular choice for buyers looking for value, quality and safety, the completely redesigned Carnival (Sedona) MPV offers more horsepower than its predecessor and is substantially larger in all key dimensions, providing more passenger room and versatility. New features found on the all-new Carnival include a standard fold-flat-into-the-floor third-row seat and power-sliding doors and liftgate.

Utilizing an all-new platform, the new Carnival's longer wheelbase and increased length and width contribute to the MPV's nearly 15% improvement in passenger room over its predecessor. Fresh styling cues and additional standard and available equipment were designed to bolster the Carnival's established position as a safety and value leader in the highly competitive MPV market.

Since its introduction in 2001, the Carnival has quickly gained recognition for its tremendous value and generous list of standard comfort, convenience and safety features. In addition to earning the U.S. federal government's highest safety ratings (Five Stars) for the driver and front and rear-seat passengers in both frontal and side impact crash tests, the Carnival has compiled an impressive list of accolades.

Safety First



Serving as Kia's flagship safety vehicle, the all-new Carnival continues to blaze the roadmap set forth by its predecessor, by earning the "Gold Top Safety Pick" for its impressive performance with top ratings in frontal, side and rear impact crash tests by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) in the U.S.

In order to receive a Gold Top Safety Pick rating from IIHS, the vehicle must receive a "Good" - the Institute's highest rating - in all three categories of frontal, side and rear impact tests. Among the eight current minivan designs the Institute has rated, the Carnival is the only one that earns "good" ratings in all three Institute's tests.

"The Carnival is the best minivan we've tested," said IIHS President Adrian Lund. "Other minivans have earned good frontal and side ratings, but they haven't achieved a satisfactory level of rear crash protection. The Carnival stands out as the first to get a clean sweep of good ratings across the board."

The new generation Carnival continues Kia's commitment to offer high levels of standard safety equipment. Sensors controlling the front supplemental restraints, for instance, determine the position of the seat, whether the seat belt is buckled, whether the front passenger seat is occupied, and the severity of a frontal impact before deployment.

A four-channel, four sensor, anti-lock brake system (ABS) is also standard. This system incorporates electronic brake force distribution (EBD), which helps to distribute braking force to all four wheels in proportion to weight shifts during cornering. The EBD adapts to individual grip conditions, which helps to improve both control and stability.

Additional safety equipment include a tire pressure monitoring system and active front seat headrests, while features such as an electronic stability program (ESP) and a traction control system (TCS) with brake assist are available as options.

Enhanced Performance

With increase horsepower and torque, the all-new Carnival offers competitive power and performance in the MPV segment. A 2.9 L, DOHC, 16 valve, Turbo intercooler, CRDi (Common Rail Direct Injection) Diesel engine has been incorporated providing 160 horse power and 35.0 Kg-m of torque. Mated to a five-speed Sportmatic ™ transmission.

Despite its increase in size, the new Carnival is significantly lighter than the previous model on an equally equipped basis. With more power, less weight and a new chassis with 4-wheel independent suspension, the new generation Carnival is designed for a more rewarding drive than its predecessor and competitors.

The new Carnival's four-wheel independent suspension is comprised of MacPherson struts with coil springs and a stabilizer bar in the front, while the rear suspension uses a multi-link design with coil springs and a stabilizer bar.

Stopping power has increased with the addition of a power-assisted four-wheel-disc braking system with larger diameter vented front disc brakes (11.7-in.) and solid rear disc brakes (11.9 in.)

Carnival models come with larger wheels and tires, including 16-inch steel wheels and 225/70 R16 tires or 17 inch alloy wheels fitted to 235/60 R17 tires.

Spacious, adaptable and comfortable

Competitively sized, the new seven-passenger Carnival's generous dimensions and unibody construction boost both passenger and luggage space, and greatly improved ride and handling.

Adding to the Carnival's space and versatility, flip and fold second row seats provide easy access to third row seating and a new, simple-to-operate 60/40 split-folding into-the-floor third row seat is standard on all models to create a larger flat cargo area when the seat is deployed.

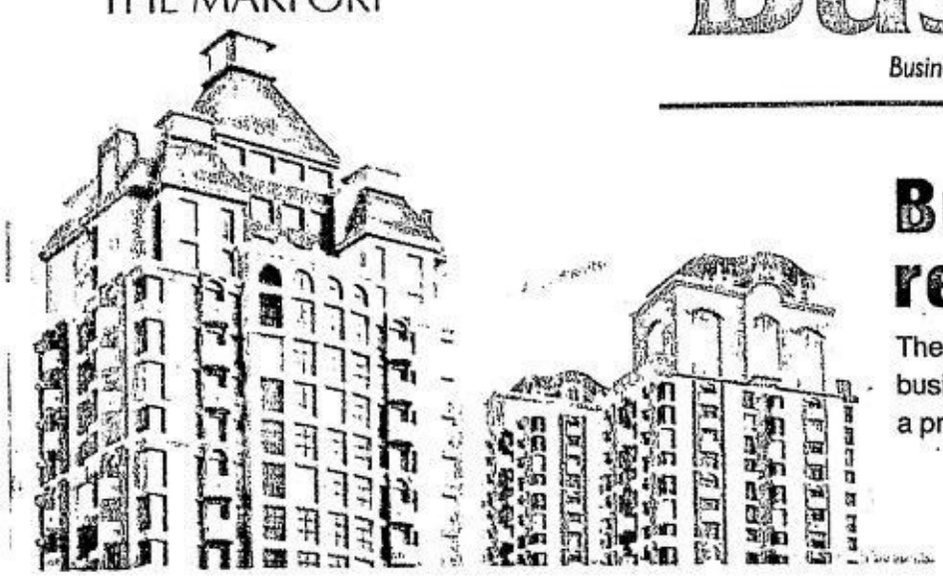
Available in two trim models - LX and EX - the all-new Carnival maintains Kia's tradition of offering high-value with its generous list standard features and amenities. Besides ABS, frontal airbags and five-speed Sportmatic™ transmission, the Carnival LX also comes with tri-zone air conditioning, sliding door power windows, cruise control, AM/FM/CD player, and keyless entry with an alarm system (EX only).

The Carnival EX adds a chrome grille, fog lights, heated power mirrors, AM/FM?Cassette/MP3/CD stereo system, , power rear quarter glass, compass, roof rack and wood trim.

In addition to the LX and Ex models' standard equipment, the all-new Carnival offers several options for maximum convenience and entertainment. These options include: backup warning system, power sliding doors, power liftgate, and a premium entertainment system featuring a DVD player and 11 speakers

ADVT.

THE MARFORI



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BUSINESS Monday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

A SHOE SUCCESS STORY

How an innovative idea turned an Italian winemaker into a billionaire

By Raquel P. Gomez

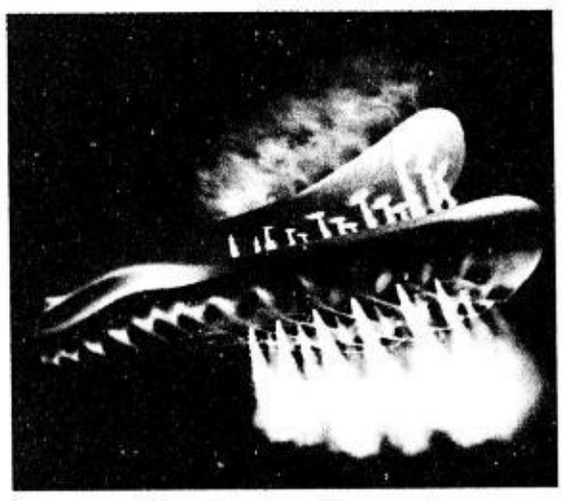
CINDERELLA HAD GLASS SLIPPERS THAT helped her live a grand life in a fairytale world. But Italian Mario Moretti Polegato has shoes that have holes in the sole that made him a billionaire in the real world.

POLEGATO sits on a $4-B empire.

Polegato's patented shoes Geox currently holds the No. 3 position as a worldwide footwear brand, having achieved that status in just 11 years of existence.

About 30,000 people work for the Geox Group, whose products are produced in 28 countries and sold in about 11,000 multi-brand stores and 700 mono brand stores in 68 countries. Leather and soles for the shoes, design, style and technology are produced in Italy (which is the world's biggest producer of footwear), and the components assembled in factories in Slovenia, Romania and Hungary.

OLD SNEAKERS that inspired Geox.



GEOX'S patented "breathing membrane"

Growing by 35 percent a year, Geox had posted impressive sales figures. It sold 4.5 million pair of shoes worldwide in 2002; 6 million pairs in 2003; 9 million pairs in 2004; 13 million pairs in 2005; and 16 million pairs in 2006. Targeted sales for this year is estimated at 21 million pairs of shoes.

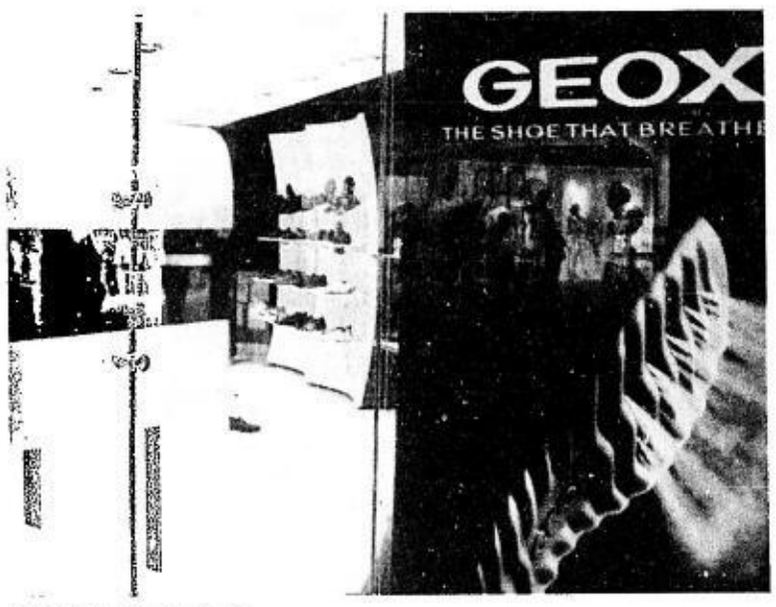
In 1996, Polegato started the now US$4-billion Geox enterprise with nothing but an idea about innovative shoes and a background in winery.

He had just finished a summer marketing swing in the United States when he decided to visit the Rocky Mountains for a hike.

After a while, his feet began to sweat heavily in his rubber sneakers and he felt very uncomfortable. To ease the discomfort, he took off the sneakers, took out a pocket knife, and began pocking holes in the soles of the sneakers to let the air in and out. Suddenly an idea dawned on him: Why not design shoes with hi-tech soles that can let in air, but not water? Shoes that breathe. Thus began the innovative idea behind Geox shoes.

It took Polegato three more years to come up with the first "breathable shoes." He took the information on new shoe materials from the space museum in Houston. With the help of the chemical department of the University of Padua, Polegato finally produced a special sole made of a waterproof membrane that has millions of small holes.

By 1994, he secured a worldwide patent for his invention and peddled it to big footwear makers such as Nike, Puma and Adidas, but was ignored. So in 1996, Polegato decided to leave winemaking to the rest of his family and focused on making shoes.



TYPICAL Geox store

First he came out with a brand name Geox, which represents the Greek term "geo" for earth and "x" for technology. Then he gathered a handful of young people, about five of them, and allocated responsibilities such as production, marketing and financing.

"[I found] in the village near where I live five young people, some of them have no experience in the shoe business. But I convinced them ... and transferred my enthusiasm (for the product) to these people."

"Geox is unique in the market," says Polegato.

The success of the product, he adds, lies in research and technological solutions which are strongly protected by patent. And by positioning the product across the market, targeting not only individuals, but all members of the family, Geox's reach went global.

Funny TV commercials and advertising communication strategies that show the shoes helping people maintain feet hygiene also boosted Geox's appeal to the masses.

"With these shoes, the smelly feet era is now finished," says an amused Polegato, adding that the company doesn't really need celebrity endorsers to make people associate the brand Geox with "shoes that breathe."

But a lot of celebrities have been spotted wearing a Geox—from Kate Winslet, Angelina Jolie, Paul McCartney to Cindy Crawford, Reese Witherspoon, Boris Becker and Pope John Paul.

HOW AN INNOVATIVE/ B2-2

BPI sees heightened demand for its bond funds

With the BSP key policy rate shedding off as much as 25 basis points, demand for bond funds are expected to pick up as yields become more attractive prospectively. Given the inverse relationship between bond fund prices and interest rates, the higher interest rate environment which prevailed for most part of the year translated to a generally weak bond fund market. Despite this, however, bond funds were seen to have performed better than the shorter-term Special Deposit Account of the BSP.

Considered as a very sound investment alternative, bond funds earn a steady stream of interest income which fund managers automatically reinvest. The resulting compounding effect and the certainty of repayments of interest and maturity amounts by the issuer (since they are primarily in government securities) guarantee that bond fund prices continue to appreciate over time.

The time-proven investment strategy of portfolio diversification supports the demand for bond funds. However, investors are advised that bond fund returns should always be assessed over a medium to long-term investment horizon. It is very normal for bond funds to exhibit temporary dips in prices but they should not cause any undue concern to clients as these are very much short-lived and modest.

BPI manages 2 peso-denominated bond funds, namely: the ABF Philippines Bond Index Fund and the BPI Premium Bond Fund. BPI Premium Bond Fund has consistently been one of the best performing funds in its category. As of 4 October 2007, the funds registered a net absolute return of 8.23% and 8.37% for the past 1 year, respectively. These funds are available at any BPI or BPI Family Bank branch nationwide for a minimum initial investment of PhP50,000 thus making investing for the ordinary Filipino more convenient and affordable.

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Notes
(1) The BPI Investment Funds are collective investment vehicles in which funds of various investors are invested by a professional fund manager in a diversified portfolio of high-grade securities based on the Fund's pre-determined investment objective.
(2) Investors may buy or sell their units based on the prevailing net asset value per unit valued at market price daily.
(3) Each fund has its own investment policy and objective to suit clients' investment requirements, horizon and risk preference. A copy of the Declaration of Trust and Plan Rules, of each particular fund is available at the principal office of the Trustee.
(4) A Trust fee of 0.08% p.a. and management fee of 0.274% p.a. applies to the Fund. There is also an early redemption fee of 1.0% for redemptions made within the 90-day minimum holding period.
(5) All funds managed by BPI Asset Management are Trust and/or Investment Management funds which DO NOT carry any guarantee of income or principal, and are NOT covered by the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC). Past performance is likewise not a guarantee of future results.

Competitiveness by innovations

MAPPING THE FUTURE

By Cesar B. Bautista

THE NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS Council is a public-private partnership effort, which depends on the public sector to enable and the private sector to drive the different activities towards achieving their objectives.

More than 50 very senior business and government officials with more than a thousand years' experience between them are involved in this undertaking to upgrade the sagging national competitiveness and to instill a culture for excellence.

Diverse backgrounds

One key benefit in engaging top achievers of diverse backgrounds is the pragmatic mindset that they bring to the projects; skirting bureaucratic issues and emphasizing the need for quick results.

The out-of-box thinking/execution is a strong feature of successful business leaders who have the ability to innovate and see the big picture.

I will share views on the council's approach, which tends to be micro-level in nature rather than macro, action-led rather than research-led, biased for results rather than for process.

Innovation in brands

Let me share with you a memorable case study which we filmed in the slums of Smokey Mountain when I was with Unilever many years ago.

We had a favorite scene shot at 6 in the morning, which showed some school children in their short khaki pants and white t-shirts on the way to school, well groomed, freshly bathed after a good breakfast, and being seen off by their mothers as they take their seats in the oversized tricycles that served as their "school bus."

What we saw in the film was that people with marginal incomes were actually big market prospects for many of Unilever's brands if these can only be made available in affordable units.

The detergent bar, for instance, is the favorite washing medium because it is handy and ideal for washing in the traditional basin or beside the river or any water stream, unlike powders which are designed for washing machines.

However, bars were normally sold in kilo-bars due to the manufacturing process or due to the claimed requirements of the target consumer group, the middle class.

This case study convinced us that we should introduce a small pack of our bars called Superwheel, which was the leading brand at that time.

The innovation was a big success and strongly entrenched Superwheel as the brand leader. That was the genesis of the small, sachet-type packs which spread to the other markets like wildfire.

Many products are now sold in sachet packs. More people are buying them because they are more affordable. All Filipinos, even the low-income groups, can have a touch of modernity and luxury for a few coins if only in small packs.

These developments took root within a short period of time. Consumer needs and brand changes are happening all the time but what is important is to focus on the fundamental needs of the markets, some aspirational, some rational.

The beauty and food markets picked up the sachet pack approach. The cigarette and drinks markets picked it up as well. The telco market picked it up and made a bigger success of it.

It is not surprising to see such trends being transferred so successfully to other industries, and even to other countries.

This marketing technique has been adopted in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, India, China and even in Europe and North America.

Few know that the gem of the idea actually started somewhere in the slums in Smokey Mountain not too long ago.

A similar innovative approach was followed in establishing a change-culture mechanism in the mid '90s when the country was gearing to be a global player in semiconductors and electronics.

World class electronics

Spurred by the strong technical capabilities of our engineers, managers and workers, several company executives banded together to work closely with government and foreign companies such as Texas Instruments and Intel, in tackling the many obstacles that were preventing the industry from taking off, in line with the growing global demands at that time.

Most of the business leaders were not experts in the electronics industry but were coming from various fields such as logistics, customs brokerage, academe, manufacturing, engineering, accountancy, instrumentation and controls, electrical engineering, etc.

They were united in their desire to get this country in a competitive footing and to improve the manufacturing of electronics.

They found the challenges quite daunting.

One of the key success factors that needed to be established was the ability to achieve short turnaround time from the importation of raw materials to the shipment of completed assemblies to customers overseas.

There were legislations that were restrictive and mandates imposed on certain agencies that made these changes difficult to implement. The process times for materials to pass through the ports and customs authorities were much too lengthy and the treatment of import taxes on incoming materials which were for re-exports after assemblies was much too complicated.

The reverse processes of shipping finished goods back to customers were equally problematic. The team of business and government officials was able to address such obstacles by a combination of innovative solutions that gelled together in a reasonably short period.

In some cases, the solution was partly to bypass the problem. In other cases, the problem was chopped down to its components and the most critical parts were given full attention. The establishment of a new institution, such as the new PEZA, gave fresh hopes for better operations by the locators in their zones.

With a duty-free environment, they were able to reduce the hassles that operators have to face in accounting for their obligations to the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue. An innovative customs lane—the "green" lane—was created for qualified entities in this sector.

In most cases, the legislators were very supportive to what the executive department was doing and the local officials were enthusiastic in the promotions of their respective regions. Team Philippines was working as a well-oiled machine.

The Philippine model became an example to other countries in Asia and in South America.

Many of the foreign electronics and semiconductor companies who were observing us from the sidelines eventually made the big decision to establish the Philippines as a base of their global manufacturing network. Filipino companies followed suit in making a mark in this industry.

During the rest of that decade, investments were in the range of $2 to $3 billion a year. This is what is known as the "bandwagon effect."

Previous to 1993, our annual exports remained below the $10 billion mark. Export growth in prior decades averaged in single digits. In 1998, our exports registered at $32 billion and growths since 1993 were in double digits.

The multiplier effect was indeed substantial as the industry brought into the country other world class technologies that were needed as support services or allied operations.

Present challenge

And now, we are pursuing a vision of a more competitive Philippines, which undoubtedly is a much bigger challenge. We are using the experiences learned from innovations to strengthen brands, or to propel the electronics sector to become world-class.

The components of the game plan are similar to those used in the past; participation of several executives (private and public) with differing backgrounds of expertise but sharing an out-of-box thinking, work on a few stretching but doable projects with clear metrics, ensure that the objectives are relevant to the overall vision, and aim for changes in culture in these selected activities.

A balanced scorecard mentality is therefore needed to see the role of each activity in the overall end picture. It is important that confidence is built between members and that they share the can-do attitude and the value of meritocracy for love of country.

It is essential that the private sector members of the council are seen to be nonpartisan and are serving with the genuine desire to improve our economic situation.

While the government enables the members to drive the projects, government will be the one to actually pull the trigger at the opportune time if desired policy changes are required.

Diamond model strategy

We looked at various models of strategy formation and chose Michael Porter's diamond-model, which was generated at Harvard Business School.

It is the favorite of several countries and industries not only in upgrading competitiveness but in motivating both the public officials and the businessmen to act together to a common goal.

The model takes into account the factor conditions, firm strategies/structures, demand conditions and the supporting (cluster) industries. We are concentrating efforts on the factor conditions, not that the other three points of the "diamond" are unimportant.

However, it is felt that these other points are already generally being addressed by government and businesses. In some cases, the private sector can increase their efforts once demands increase as in clustering, which became a reality with our successes in the automotive, garments, electronics, food processing industries.

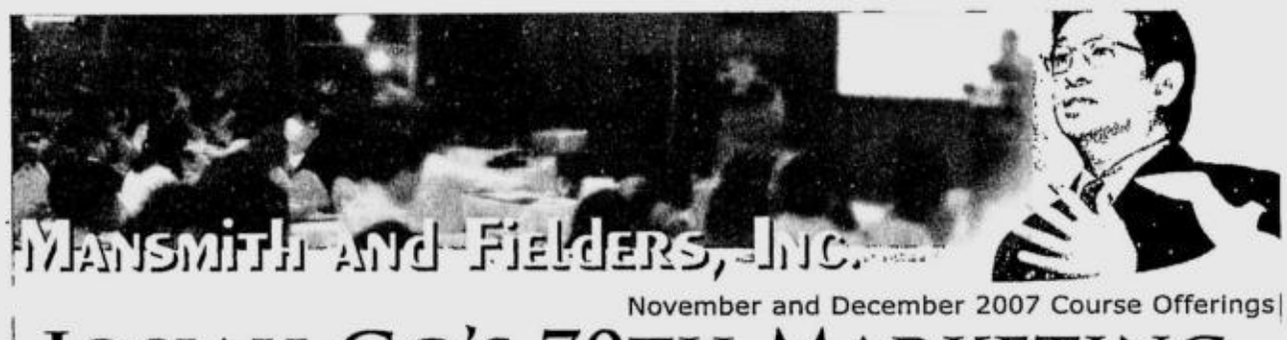
The opening of markets is a policy that is being pursued by government as shown in the privatization of public corporations, the squeezing out of monopolies, the lowered barriers in external trade and reduced ban on foreigners in specific activities.

There may be weaknesses in the execution of such policies but there are existing vigilant advocates who continuously encourage the authorities to "walk the talk."

Very clearly, it should not be business as usual. The council members are fully aware of the importance of their assignments and are moving forward with business-like approach—pragmatic, innovative and results oriented.

It is our hope that with time, their enthusiasm will become contagious to the wider community so that the Philippines can become part of the renaissance movement, which is taking part in the East Asia region.

(Speech delivered by the author during the World Bank Seminar on East Asian Renaissance at AIM Conference Center. The author is Co-Chair of the National Competitiveness Council and Trustee of Institute of Corporate Directors. He previously served as Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph).



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Robinsons Land embarks on new project in Ortigas

ROBINSONS LAND CORP., ONE OF THE country's leading real estate companies, is set to start on its new project in Ortigas that will feature a five-star hotel, two residential buildings and a center for business process outsourcing firms.

Robinsons will adopt the same formula it used in the development of the Galleria Complex, also in Ortigas.

The new project will rise on the former site of the Medical City, considered one of the most prized vacant lots in the Ortigas Center.

RLC's acquisition of the prime property affirms RLC's position as the largest property investor and developer in the Ortigas Center.

At present, Robinsons Galleria Complex remains the busiest commercial and prime business complex in the area housing Robinsons' flagship Galleria Mall, RLC-managed hotels Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Manila and the upscale Galleria Regency Condominium.

The complex also includes the Robinsons Equitable Tower and Galleria Corporate Center.

Completing the mix as a satellite development two blocks away is East of Galleria, a 45-storey residential tower.

The newly acquired lot is considered as RLC's second mixed-use development in the Ortigas area and will target the high-end market.

Collaborating with Robinsons Land's team of designers in crafting Ortigas' next development is the world renowned and award-winning planning and architectural design team of HOK.

HOK brings to the project over 50 years of expertise in delivering design solutions for buildings and communities all over the world.

HOK is ranked the best architectural and engineering firm for 2007 by Building Design + Construction and Engineering News-Record in their respective reviews.

How an innovative idea turned an Italian winemaker into a billionaire

From page B2-1

Two years ago, Geox Group went public in the Milano Stock Exhange in Italy, with 71 percent still owned by Polegato.

Shares of Geox in the stock market have been growing steadily up to 200 percent in just two years. A natural progression for a company already enjoying success in Europe and America is to boost its presence in Asia as well.

The Philippines, where Geox is distributed through a franchisee, is a promising market for the unique shoes, according to Polegato.

"The Filipinos would be interested in our technology," he says during the launch of the Geox store in Trinoma in Quezon City. "Because of the climate and humidity here, you will need shoes that breathe.

"A lot of Filipinos used to buy Geox in Italy, because many Filipinos live and travel there. But now they can buy the shoes locally."

Polegato has not changed, even though he ranked 287th among the world's billionaire, according to Forbes magazine.

"I was born in a wine family, so I don't much think about status or position. My feet are still on the ground," he says. "However, the position is interesting because I get to meet and talk with other business leaders and political leaders in economic meetings."

His status, and how he got there, has prompted him to echo his ideas to students in forums in different universities where he is often invited.

"I explain to students that when they have an idea, they should develop it into a business."

6TH MAP INTERNATIONAL CEO CONFERENCE

Western Union launches $50-M program for OFWs

THE PHILIPPINES—HOME TO MORE THAN eight million people living and working overseas—will be one of the pilot areas for a $50-million, five-year initiative to empower migrant families through education and livelihood programs.

The US-based global money transfer services firm Western Union Company and its philanthropic arm, The Western Union Foundation, recently unveiled Our World, Our Family, a program that will help migrant workers and their families "stay connected, overcome barriers and realize their dreams."

Aside from the Philippines, one of its largest markets, Western Union is also piloting the program in the United Arab Emirates, Guatemala and the United States.

"Education and economic opportunity mean providing people around the world with the tools to succeed," said Christina Gold, president and CEO of Western Union. "We take great pride in our commitment to helping families stay connected, and we strongly believe in making migration an option, not a necessity."

Gold was in Manila as one of the 13 global business leaders and visionaries who spoke at the 6th Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) International CEO Conference at the Makati Shangri-La from Oct. 2 to 3.

"Corporate social responsibility does not always have to be charity. There are many ways of giving back and the best way is to educate and open opportunities for the upward mobility of migrants and their families. With Western Union's example, Gold discussed the benefits, issues and trends of global migration and the many innovations financial services companies can offer to very mobile people in a shrinking globe," said Ambassador Albert del Rosario, MAP president.

The $50-million initiative is in line with Western Union's new thrust to focus its corporate and charitable investments on education and economic opportunity issues that impact consumers around the world.

Under the program, the company will actively engage its agents and customers to support social issues; fund family scholarships; enlist volunteers to teach entrepreneurial and personal finance to local communities; and engage global leaders in a new dialogue to address migration issues.

Since 2001, the Western Union Foundation, in collaboration with Western Union agents and employees, has granted nearly $40 million to more than 1,500 nongovernment organizations in 70 countries around the globe to support humanitarian projects.

"With Our World, Our Family, we will help open doors to new opportunities supporting global citizens on their journey to a better life," Gold said.

Ranked one of America's "Most Powerful Women" by Fortune magazine, the CEO of the $5-billion company oversaw its transition from a subsidiary into a publicly listed company.

She spent 25 years at cosmetics company Avon before she landed at Western Union in 2002 as its president.

Today, the money transfer empire is nearly double the size of its nearest competitor and boasts of nearly 20-percent share of the market.

Take a peek...
at The Linden Suites

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The Linden Suites' new two- &-three bedroom units are equipped with 32" LCD's & DVD stereo components, with fittings for iPods & Creative units to satisfy the most avid audiophiles. Each suite has more than enough space for small corporate brainstormings or intimate family gatherings. Our kitchens, done in black granite, provide the perfect backdrop for your culinary masterpieces. Sinfully soft mattresses and goose-down pillows are the perfect bedtime companions.

Experience luxurious city living.

MOVEMENTS

Wella country head named

MICHAEL SCHULZ HAS BEEN APPOINTED managing director for Wella Philippines and Wella Indonesia. He assumes these responsibilities in addition to his current role as country head of Wella Thailand. With almost 23 years of service for Wella/P&G Professional Care, Schulz brings in his dedication, industry know-how and professional expertise to the salon business. In his career, he has held positions in marketing sales and general management on national, regional and global levels. Prior to being appointed as the MD of Wella Thailand in 2004, Schulz had assignments in Germany, South Africa, Spain, China, Australia and Malaysia.

TNT appoints new director

TNT, leading provider of global express services, has appointed Wilson Tan as director of HR, legal and corporate affairs for Southeast Asia. Based at TNT Southeast Asia's regional office in Singapore, Tan is expected to further evaluate more international standards to be implemented in Southeast Asia, as well as oversee the maintenance of the five certifications TNT has achieved across its operations in the Philippines and the rest of Southeast Asia. TNT Philippines president and general manager Jose Luis Romero-Salas said, "TNT Philippines welcomes the new appointment of Wilson Tan which we are confident will spur new and challenging growth opportunities for the rest of Southeast Asia. Judging from the commendable business practices and quality standards that Wilson has put in place, he has raised the bar to ensure that TNT remains among the best."

Yahoo! appoints senior director

Yahoo! Southeast Asia has announced the appointment of Joselito Anonuevo as senior director of Business Development.

Anonuevo, based in Singapore, assumes a newly created role and becomes a key member of Yahoo!'s regional team, overseeing the company's strategic partnerships across Southeast Asia.

Anonuevo, a Philippine national and 20-year veteran of the technology industry, started his career at Oracle before it went public and has since become one of the pre-eminent technology thought leaders from the Philippines.

At Yahoo!, Anonuevo will provide a vital link to helping Yahoo! fulfill its mission to remain the most locally relevant Internet service for people and advertisers across Southeast Asia.

"Jojo is a passionate technology leader and he understands the needs of the Internet ecosystem," said Tom Sipple, managing director, Yahoo! Southeast Asia.

"Jojo will help lead the Yahoo!'s regional partners—content providers, advertisers & publishers, resellers, etc.—to new levels of business success by adopting the Internet and Yahoo! as a partner of choice to achieve better business results," Sipple added.

Pacific Internet appoints VP

Pacific Internet, an affiliate of Pacific Internet Limited, the largest telco-independent Internet Communications Service Provider by geographic reach in the Asia Pacific, has appointed Rosemarie Pineda as the new vice president for Product Development and Marketing.

In her dual function as the head for both marketing and product development, Pineda will supervise the development of new products and IP services such as Voice-over Internet Protocol (VoIP), data/Internet access and other value added services like managed security according to the needs and demands of the local market.

She is also in charge of growing Pacific Internet's regional brands in the local market.

She is further expected to lead customer and market research initiatives, advertising and promotional campaigns, as well as conceptualize and implement Pacific Internet Philippines' Go to Market programs.

Pineda has extensive experience in marketing, sales, product and brand management, in the telecommunications, manufacturing and consumer goods industries.

Carlyle expands with key hire

Global private equity firm The Carlyle Group is expanding in Asia with the addition of Anand Balasubrahmanyan as a director to lead its investments in Southeast Asia for Carlyle Asia Partners.

Balasubrahmanyan will be based in Singapore, where he will establish a Carlyle Asia Partners team.

Established in 1997 and currently with $2.56 billion dedicated funds under management, Carlyle Asia Partners makes control and strategic minority investments in companies across the non-Japan Asia region with a team of 33 investment professionals based out of six offices in Hong Kong, Mumbai, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore and Sydney.

Balasubrahmanyan joins Carlyle after a 12-year career in investment banking, most recently as executive director and head of Global Capital Markets for Southeast Asia at Morgan Stanley.

X.D. Yang, managing director and cohead of Carlyle Asia Partners, said: "We see increasing investment opportunities in Southeast Asia. We are stepping up our efforts with a dedicated team based in Singapore under Anand's leadership to pursue investments across the region, especially in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Each of these countries has demonstrated strong economic growth and stability in recent years and we expect such trends to continue. We will partner with local companies and management teams to grow their businesses in their own markets as well as regionally and globally."

Carlyle Asia Partners is part of The Carlyle Group, the largest private equity investor in Asia with $6.3 billion in committed funds under management and more than 100 investment professionals.

Carlyle invests in Asia across a diverse platform that includes buyouts, growth capital, real estate and leveraged finance, in all the major economies in the region. Carlyle's office in Singapore was started in July 2000 by David Tung, a managing director covering Asia Investor Relations out of Singapore.

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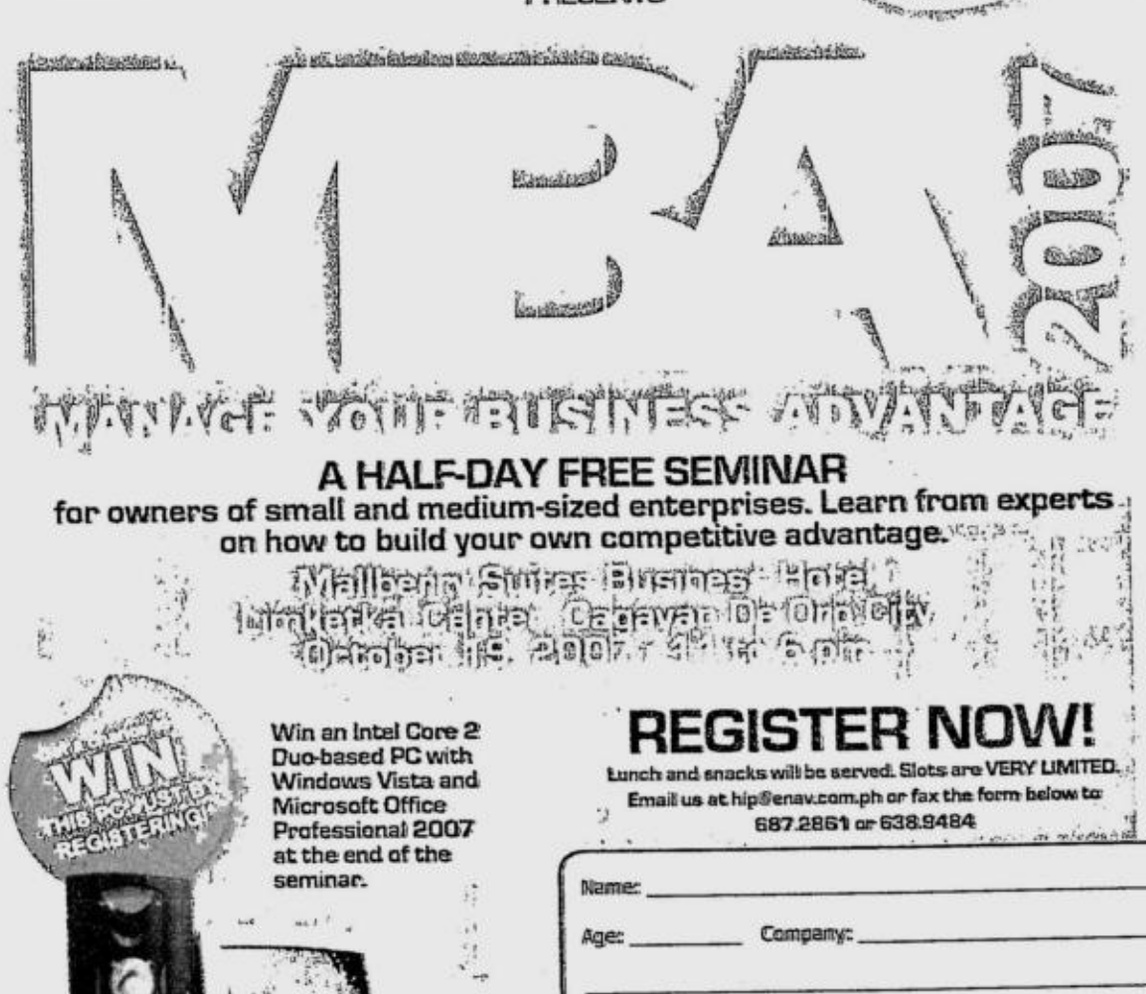

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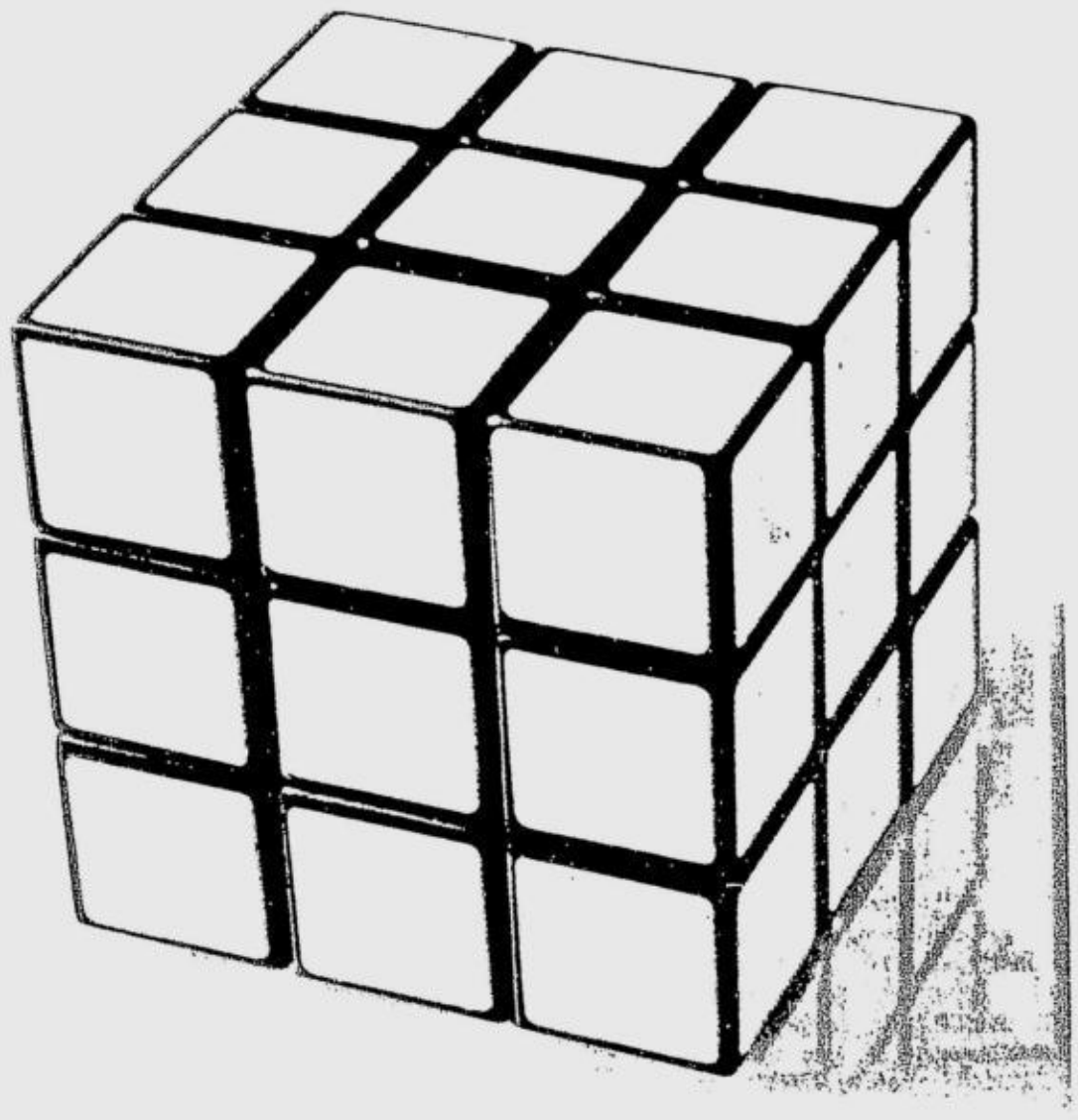

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10-seat contact centers emerging in RP

New sectors are coming out, experts say

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE CALL CENTER INDUSTRY IS already making its presence felt in the Philippines, but the best is yet to come, according to Davao-based businesswoman Joji Ilagan-Bian.

The call center industry has been touted as the country's sunrise industry, and Bian says new facets of the business process outsourcing sector are still emerging, such as the small to medium-sized centers.

"Small- and medium-scale call centers (SMCCs) are flourishing and they can prove to be as strong a support sector as the big operators we are cheering today," she tells Business Monday.

Bian explains that SMCCs are those that operate with a capacity of 200 seats or less, and preferably at least 10 seats to ensure viability.

"The CICT (Commission on Information and Communication Technology) refer to these as Smites or small- and medium-scale IT enterprises," Bian says.

"Whatever they may be called, they are becoming a strong presence in the coming years," she adds. "In fact, they are dispersed in the regions unlike the big call centers, and the average SMCC has 10 seats."

Bian herself owns the nascent Six Eleven Inc. which has two sites—one in Davao City with 158 seats and another in Eastwood City in Libis, Quezon City with 174 seats.

Six Eleven started in Davao last May 2006, mainly offering outbound sales services such as marketing travel plans.

Business was so promising that the firm opened the second site in Quezon City last August and would start operations on Sept. 28.

"But despite the evident strong potential of SMCCs, they face greater odds compared with the big players," Bian says. "With less resources, it is hard for us to launch campaigns and promote ourselves to clients because most SMCCs rely on brokers who may turn out to be unreliable."

For this reason, Bian's firm joined forces with similarly situated SMCCs and formed the Philippine Call Center Alliance Inc. or PhilCall in October 2006.

So far, PhilCall has 25 members—with an average of 40 seats each—including 999 Inc., Synergia Cybercare Inc., VirCommServe Inc., Right Technicomm Inc., Sysgen Outsource Inc., Tech1 Internet and Farmout Central Intouch Inc.

Bian, who is PhilCall interim president, explains that the association was meant to advance SMCCs interest mainly by curbing the problem of dealing with brokers.

"At this early, PhilCall has been able to undertake initial efforts in representing members when making campaigns," she says. "This move saves our members from the prospect of not getting paid by clients because of unreliable brokers."

To strengthen PhilCall and make it more effective, the group has also embarked on a campaign to enlist more members with the goal of being able to represent a total of 10,000 seats.

"Our aim is also to professionalize SMCC operation so that we can establish a good reputation that is based on high standards of services as well as of ethics," Bian says. "We want to flesh out SMCCs from the underground, so to speak."

She adds that aside from the current 25 members, there was "a larger number" of SMCCs that have registered with PhilCall for eventual membership.

She says SMCC are spread across the country's so-called regional IT hubs like the cities of Cebu, Davao, Dagupan, Naga, Baguio, Iloilo and Cagayan de Oro.

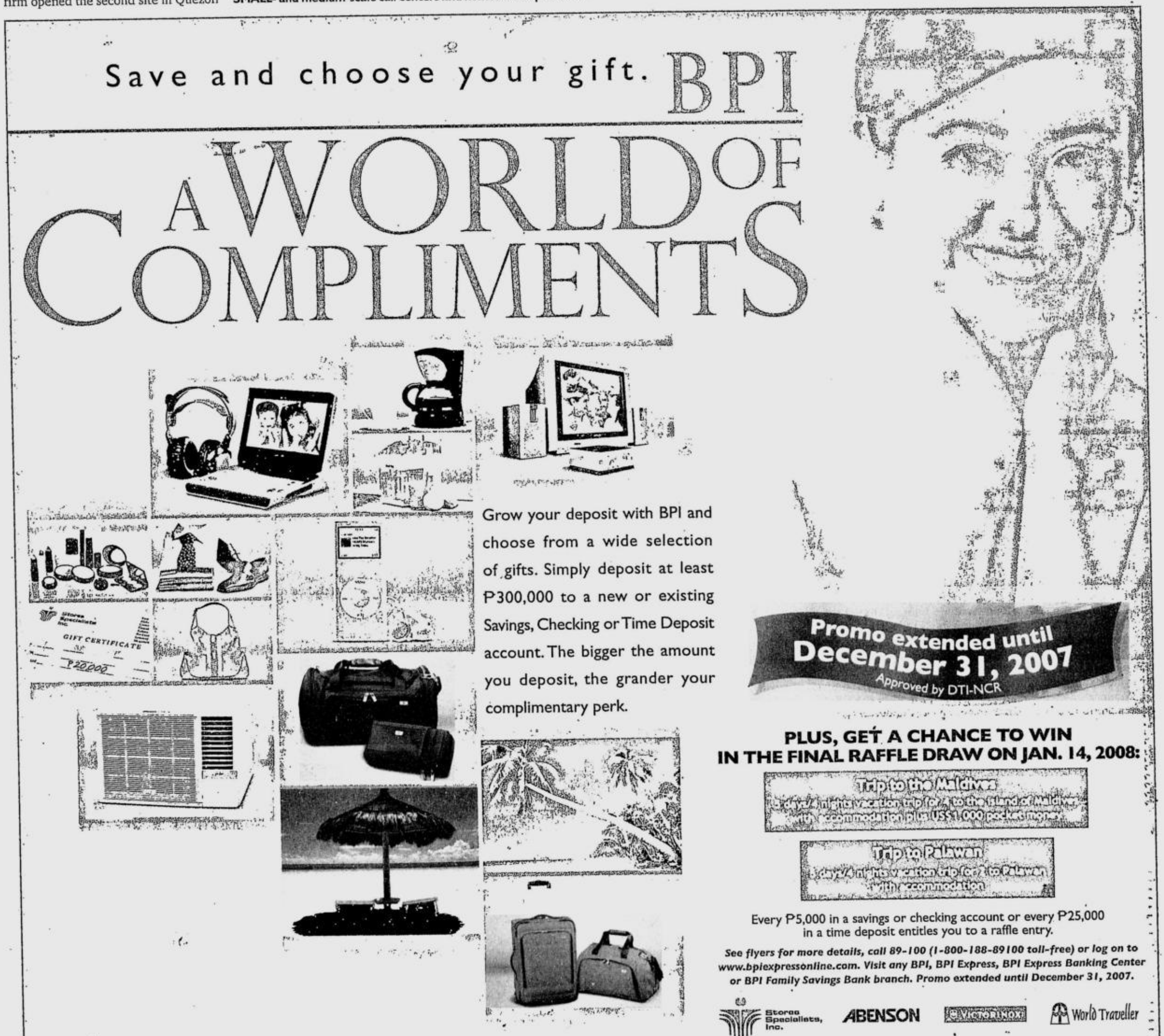
A large majority of SMCCs are involved in outbound sales calls, but Bian said opportunities were vast because technical support, data management, accounting, banking transactions and "anything under the sun" could be outsourced.

Moreover, SMCCs do not have to struggle to compete with the big players for clients. "Big clients naturally go for big players, so SMCCs have small clients that are emerging in parallel."

According to PhilCall's profile, it also accepts associate members for companies whose business activities support those of the regular members--VoIP and software providers, training and recruitment centers, etc.

"Small and medium home grown contact centers nationwide have come into play serving as conduits for ICT growth in the locality as it creates a ripple effect in the local economy with its increasing demand for technology, infrastructure and manpower," the profile says.

SMALL- and medium-scale call centers find homes in the provinces



Calicoan Island makes a splash among surfers

By Vicente Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN City—Efforts to promote Guiuan, Eastern Samar through a sports competition are paying off as more tourists and adventure lovers are coming down to sample the town's delights.

Over a hundred surfers from different parts of the country are expected to join the 4th Eastern Samar Surfing Crown: Odyssey Waves Surfing Competition, which will run from today until Wednesday.

The three-day surfing event was organized by the provincial government of Eastern Samar headed by Gov. Ben Evardone, municipal government of Guiuan headed by Mayor Analiza Kwan, the Department of Tourism regional office here under Director Karina Rosa Tiopes and the Surfriders Club of Eastern Samar Inc.

Some 30 members of the Surfriders Club of Eastern Samar will be joining the competition, which will take participants to the swells of Calicoan Island facing the Pacific Ocean.

As in the past, a huge crowd is expected to show up in the island to witness with fascination how surfers ride the swells with grace.

The competition this year is expected to bring surfers from Baler, Daet and even Manila in Luzon; Lanuza and Siargao in Mindanao; and from Tanauan, Leyte in the Visayas.

THE GREAT swells in Calicoan Island continue to lure surfers.

A SURFER carries his surfboard after riding the waves.

The Department of Tourism and the provincial and municipal governments have been organizing the annual surfing competition in Calicoan Island, Guiuan to get enthusiasts to see what the town could offer as a destination.

Aurora delos Reyes, investment and tourism officer of Guiuan, said Guiuan Mayor Analiza Kwan has been very active in promoting Guiuan as a tourist spot, banking not only on the waves but also the town's rich historical, pilgrimage and cultural sites.

Guiuan, which is one of the bigger towns in Eastern Samar and composed of 60 barangays, is 157 kilometers away from Tacloban City, the regional capital of Eastern Visayas.

Guiuan is a two- to three-hour road trip away from Tacloban City, where commercial flights from and to Manila are available. Calicoan, meanwhile, is just a 10-minute drive from Guiuan town proper.

According to a handout prepared by the National Statistical Coordination Board in Eastern Visayas, Calicoan also has "six lagoons ringed by forest, the largest being 30 hectares and on the northern tip of Calicoan are wetlands like the Everglades, teeming with fish, shrimp and crabs."

Visitors to the island also noted that monkeys and iguanas abound in the area, some of them crossing the road in full view of the happy tourists.

Aside from the waves, tourists in Guiuan can also check out its history as the town boasts of an airport that was heavily used during World War II and a 15th-century Catholic church and belfry.

The airport's 2.08-km long and 26-m runway built by the Americans can still be used despite its age. The apron and terminal are undergoing construction so that commercial flights can operate in Guiuan, making it more accessible to tourists.

Some P30 million has been released for the airport rehabilitation project and another P70 million is expected to come in, Delos Reyes said.

She noted that it was in Guiuan, specifically Homonhon Island, where Ferdinand Magellan and his men first set foot, thus marking the "discovery" of the Philippines on March 16, 1521.

Incidentally, some 423 years after Magellan's arrival, another historic event took place when a company of American soldiers landed on Homonhon Island on Oct. 17, 1944 to pave the way for the coming of the Allied forces led by Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Three days later, on Oct. 20, 1944, the Allied forces landed in Leyte, signaling the start of the liberation campaign in the country.

Delos Reyes said that Guiuan also became an important naval base during the liberation campaign.

On Dec. 1, 1944, several ships and barges arrived at Guiuan Bay to unload different kinds of heavy equipment for use in the construction of a big naval base, which was then considered the biggest in the Far East.

By the end of 1944 or early 1945, several battleships and warplanes started taking off from Guiuan.

Aside from the airport, one of the few remnants of Guiuan's wartime history is the foundation of a flagpole of the big American depot in Barangay Ngolos in Calicoan Island.

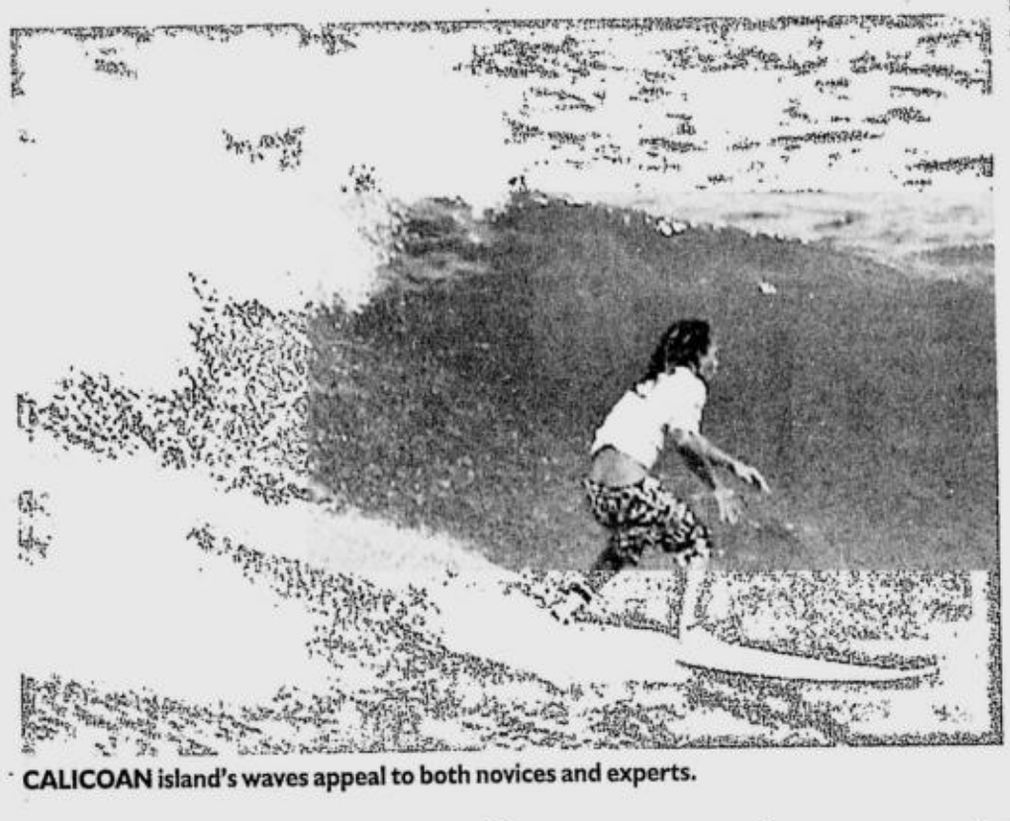
On Oct. 17, Barangay Ngolos will again be the site of the commemoration of the Liberation of Eastern Samar, which is dubbed as a "Sentimental Journey."

The activity is held each year to commemorate the Filipino war veterans and the members of the Allied Liberation Forces, especially those who served in Guiuan.

The officers and members of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP) Sons and Daughters and some foreign dignitaries usually attend this event marking the great battle.

But today, just about a kilometer away from Barangay Ngolos, Guiuan will witness the start of another "battle."

This time, however, it will be a friendly competition among some of the country's best surfers.



CALICOAN island's waves appeal to both novices and experts.

Pangasinan 'bangus' gets its own brand name

By Gabriel Cardinoza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—IT'S NOW A LOT easier to spot the *bangus* (milkfish) grown in Pangasinan.

They are now labeled either "Dagupan *bangus*" or "Pangasinan *bangus*." Those without these labels are considered "alien *bangus*," or grown somewhere else, according to city agriculturist Emma Molina.

"We have to act fast because we cannot ignore and set aside the perception of our consumers," Molina said.

"Besides, we have to give premium to Dagupan *bangus* and differentiate them from Pangasinan *bangus* and from *bangus* [raised in other provinces]," she said.

Dagupan *bangus* refer to those grown in the city's fish pens and ponds while Pangasinan *bangus* are those grown in other towns such as Bolinao, Anda, Bani, Sual, Lingayen, Binmaley, San Fabian and Alaminos City.

The labeling of homegrown *bangus* was triggered by the arrival here last month of large shipments of *bangus* from other provinces, creating fears among local growers that it would impact on the local *bangus* industry, which is the lifeblood of the city.

"Not only were these sold P15 to P20 cheaper than our *bangus* but these were also passed off as genuine Dagupan *bangus*," said Julita Perez, president of the Malimgas-Aliguas Dagupan Vendors Federation.

To the untrained eye, an "alien" *bangus* looks exactly like a Dagupan *bangus*. To tell the difference, one has to smell the gills.

"An 'alien' *bangus* has that distinctive, unpleasant, mud-like odor," Perez said.

Dagupan *bangus*, especially those raised in the fishponds in the villages of Bonuan Gueset, Bonuan Boquig and Bonuan Binloc, are said to be the best tasting *bangus* variety in the world.

But Molina said the labeling system the group has adopted is the best it can do for the moment.

She said in her meetings with local *bangus* growers and wholesalers that they were thinking of putting individual labels on each package of *bangus*.

"But we cannot easily implement it because we need to closely coordinate with the Department of Trade and Industry because there's a DTI project under the One Town-One Product program, where the DTI identified that the provincial product would still be *bangus*," Molina said.

To ensure that the *bangus* products are properly labeled, Molina said the city government's market division had fielded market inspectors to monitor *bangus* wholesalers.

"There are more than 50 wholesalers and we have identified who are trading Bonuan *bangus*, who are trading Dagupan *bangus* and who are trading Pangasinan *bangus*," Molina said.

There are only four wholesalers trading "alien" *bangus*, she said.

"The peculiarity of their operations is that they do not trade 'alien' *bangus* the whole 24 hours that they operate because the 'alien' *bangus* arrive during a specific period," Molina said.

At least 200 kilograms of "alien" *bangus* arrive here every other day from Zambales and Bulacan, she said.

"But when the supply is small, the trick is that these are mixed with the Dagupan *bangus* or Pangasinan *bangus*. So it is passed off as such, which is detrimental to the industry because we all know that they do not taste like our *bangus*," Molina said.

While the city government is still perfecting the labeling scheme, Molina said they could only bank now on the honesty of the wholesalers.

"We told them that we could not protect the industry alone. We can only protect it if it is coupled with honesty and with the spirit of being a Dagupeño," she said.

"The first that would be ruined is Dagupan's *bangus* industry and second, the credibility of the operator. Even if we help each other on the monitoring side, if the person selling it is not telling us the truth, still [we will have a problem]," Molina said.

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ONE DAY, YOU FIND OUT THAT someone has used your name to get a credit card and has run up thousands in charges. Trouble is, you're now being asked to pay, so you end up in a pile of debt for money you never used anyway.

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Every day, thousands of credit card holders get victimized by unscrupulous individuals who commit crimes while using the identity of others.

We can all fall victim to this con game.

Symantec, a global leader in Internet security, has some tips to prevent identity theft.

Most identity theft occurs the old-fashioned way. Thieves rifle through trash, steal mail, and use con games to trick you into revealing sensitive details. To avoid becoming a victim, learn to protect your personal information diligently.

Don't give out your social security number over the phone. Shred paperwork containing account information or personal identifiers.

Keep important documents in a locked safe.

Online identity theft is also a problem.

Store sensitive information in password-protected files and directories. Learn to spot fraudulent e-mails. Use only secure, authenticated websites to transact business.

More importantly, install a personal firewall, antivirus program and spam filter.

Although there's a lot you can do to protect your identity, some things are out of your hands.

Even if you've been careful with your information, that doesn't mean someone won't hack into your employer's or bank's computers. That's why it's important to keep constant tabs on your accounts and credit report.

In Davao,there's wi-fi to go with your coffee

From page B2-4

In the end, it's still the quality of the coffee, the main product, and pastries, that matter, Lozano said.

The demand for free wi-fi is not just a fad, he said. "It's going to be among the freebies that customers will enjoy and take for granted in the future. Just like the way they have come to enjoy free aircon, water ... they'll also come to enjoy free wi-fi on an ordinary day."

As laptops and other gadgets with online access become cheaper and more affordable, wi-fi access will continue to be in demand in the future, said Aportadera.

"The demand for free wi-fi is not spectacular yet, but it's growing," he said. "It also slowly adds up to income."

Towards late afternoon to early evening, customers trickle in at Basti's Brew, looking for the best table for their laptops. Most of them are medical representatives and businessmen, and their number is increasing every year, Lozano said.

Not just a fad

"They have serious business at hand, they're not just students showing off their latest gadgets, so it's not just a fad," he said. "Local businessmen and professionals make up 60 percent of the market, and 40 percent are shared by students, tourists, other outsiders.

"They'd rather work here because of the ambiance. You could never get bored in a coffee shop because there are just so many things to see. The good thing about Bo's, we don't sell alcohol, so they consider this a wholesome place, a safe place for kids."

Lozano said that selling prepaid cards was not very popular among customers. There has been a clamor among Bo's Coffee outlets in other cities for Bo's national office to look for a more affordable Internet provider so that they can also offer free wi-fi to customers.

Aside from laptop users, the demand for wi-fi is also fueled by the affordability of other gadgets, like PDAs and cell phones.

"Most of the time, people only want to get connected," Aportadera said. "But of course, there are some students who open their laptops just to chat, but most of our customers are medical representatives filing their reports online."

On F. Torres, a coffee shop called Kasagingan has become a favorite among the café set in this city. On its walls are posters that subtly remind customers to order.

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Dream package comes alive

By Raquel P. Gomez

THE INTERNET HAS BECOME a useful marketing ally for consumer electronics giant Sony, explaining better its tech-laden products like the "Bravia theater package" that includes LCD televisions and complex sound systems.

Its website www.sony.com has been spruced up to include a section that helps consumers decide on the type of entertainment appliances that will suit their homes.

Sony's interactive shopping for a Bravia entertainment package begins with the "select a room shape" button, which allows an Internet user to select the size and shape of a room where he intends to put the appliances.

After selecting room size and shape, the user proceeds to "select speaker layout" button, which provides the user several options in three dimensional room layouts. The user can choose from two-speaker or four-speaker room layouts.

Next, the user proceeds to "select an entertainment" button. He is asked to provide the kind of entertainment he likes from a Bravia entertainment package—either movies only, music only, or both music and movies.

Once the options are clicked, the site processes the data input and comes out with four recommendations. The user can now click on the one he prefers. Then, a wonderful image of a warm cozy room with all the appliances from the recommendation appears tantalizingly onscreen. The site also offers tips on room layout and how to set up a theater system at home.

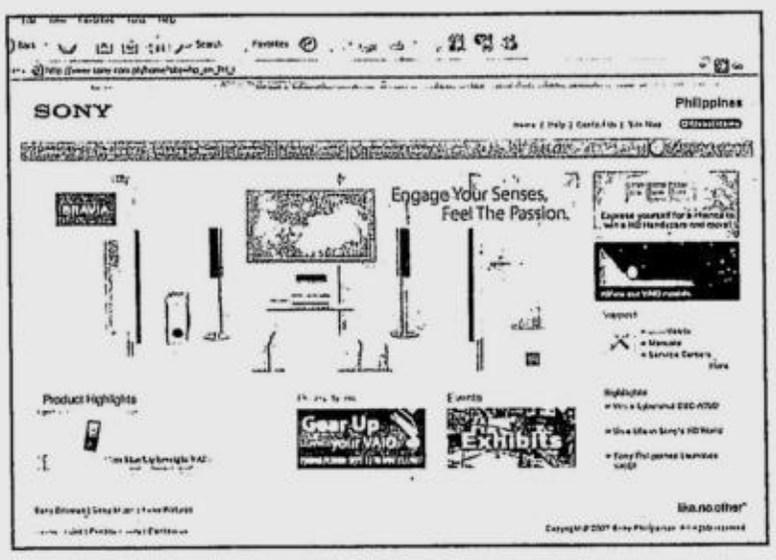
With a spruced-up website that offers consumers visualization of its products, Sony is gearing up as preparation for the demands of future households, where sophisticated and intelligent electronic appliances and gadgets rule.

Sony recently launched in the Philippines several more Bravia LCD TV series to make a total of 38 models available in the local market. Two years ago, there were only five Bravia LCD TV models.

The new X-series are top-of-the-line Bravia LCD TV featuring full 1080p HD and comes in 40", 46", 52" and 70" screen sizes. Sony boasts of producing the biggest LCD TV in the local market. The W-series features the Bravia engine ex technology that displays true-to-life images even with non-HD signals.

"Sony HD World," as the Sony marketing campaign is called, also saw the launch of high-definition (HD) products such as the Blu-ray player, HD Cyber-shots, Handycams, full-HD home projectors, and the HD VAIO Notebook PC.

"Sony HD World is in full swing with the release of Bravia's full-HD and technology-packed expansion that comes in several unique personalities," says Takashi Kozu, vice president for marketing. "Even more historic is the introduction of the newest members of the Sony Bravia family."



BY CLICKING at tabs on its website (above), Sony gets to treat you to a virtual layout of your living room, furnished with its Bravia LCD TV and sound system package (top).

For LCD TV sales worldwide, Sony has sold 6.3 million units in 2006. This year the company targets 10 million units, according to Kozu. "With these.sales figures, the trend worldwide is that consumers are shifting to large screen sizes of 40 inches and up."

Aside from HD capability, Sony's Bravia technologies include HDMI connection or high definition multimedia interface, a high bandwidth, all-digital cable that can transmit huge amounts of quality video and audio signals at speeds of 56 bps (byte-per-second). It eliminates wire or cable clutter as it connects HD TV to DVD players and other HD devices.

Bravia entertainment package also features a one-button click on the "remote commander" that makes the whole system spring to life. The "intelligent one-touch system" on the single remote control automatically turns on or off the DVD, the LCD TV and also controls the sound.

In the current IT-technology and gadget-crazed world, even if you don't have the money, you can at least envision your home having those expensive appliances in interactive mode.

Tough it may only be a virtual image on the Internet, it still is the closest possible "experience" of having a dream Bravia entertainment showcase, Well, dream on.

Adobe device boosts flash content of mobile phones

By Riza T. Olchondra

MORE AND MORE FLASH developers want to make content that is compatible with a range of end-devices, particularly mobile phones with small screens.

Raymond Lee, manager of Adobe Systems in Southeast Asia, told reporters at an end-user forum that Adobe has bundled its Device Central utility into its Creative Suite packages to serve increasing demand.

"We have partnered with Nokia, Sony-Ericsson, and just about all well-known mobile handset makers who have models that support Flash," he said. "Device Central is incorporated in all Adobe developer tools, as well as its graphics and content generation offerings, such as Premiere, Illustrator and Photoshop."

Device Central lets developers test Flash applications against multiple device profiles to determine if the app can be supported properly.

Device Central also lets developers learn about specifications and features of individual mobile devices from one centralized window. Browse, search, and sort device profiles, directly compare multiple devices along several dimensions, and create custom sets of devices for quick project access.

LEE of Adobe Systems

The utility allows smart testing. One may preview and test the appearance, performance and behavior of mobile content on the desktop, be it a PC or a Mac.

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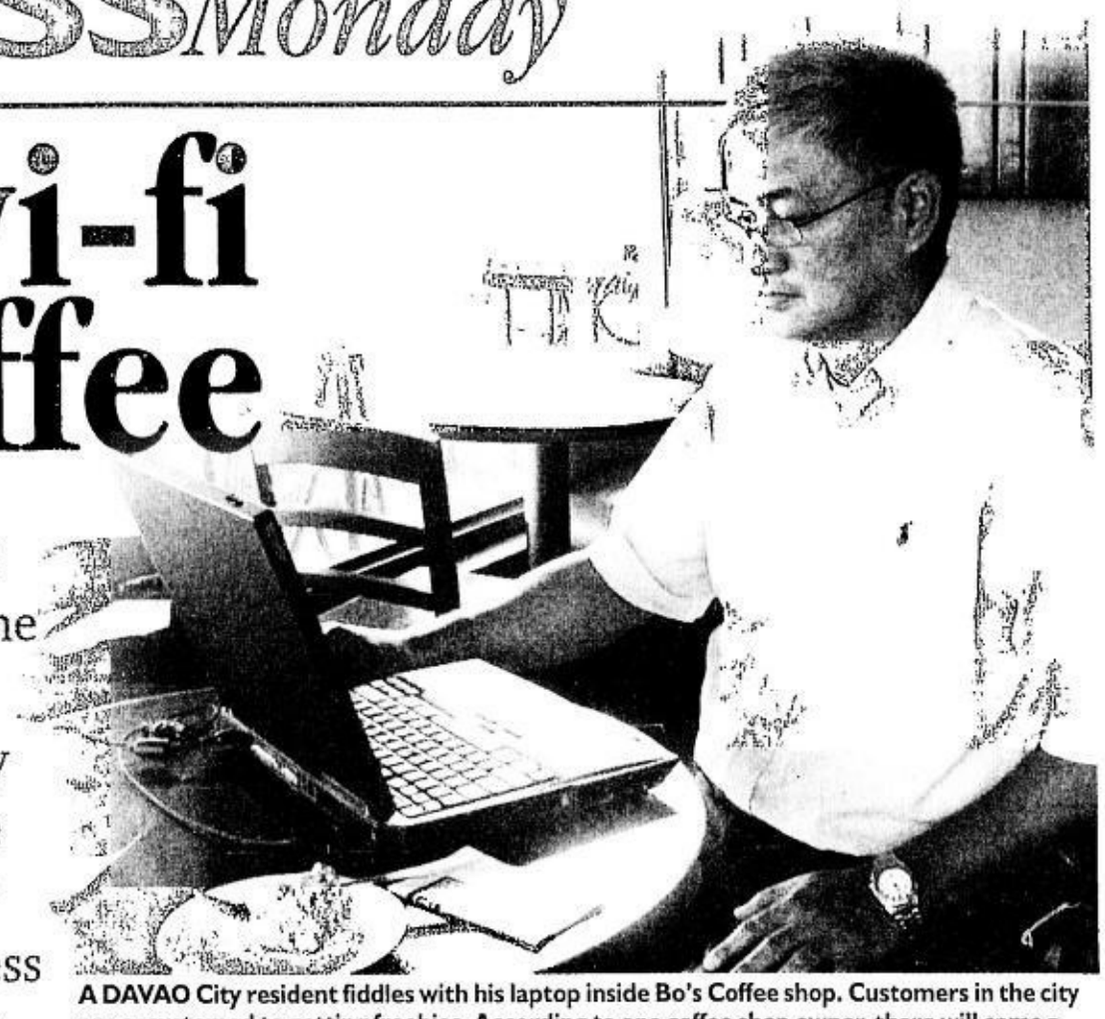
BUSINESS Monday

In Davao, there's wi-fi to go with your coffee



A time may come when the city will be under a 'wireless cloud'

A DAVAO City resident fiddles with his laptop inside Bo's Coffee shop. Customers in the city are accustomed to getting freebies. According to one coffee shop owner, there will come a time when people will demand free wi-fi sites as they demand water.

Text and photo by Germelina Lacorte
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—"IF YOU CAN MAKE IT here, you can make it anywhere."

Jammer Lozano, manager of Bo's Coffee, thus described the city market, which has come to be known throughout the country as a market that is "very hard to please."

This reputation has led to the mushrooming of establishments, mostly coffee shops, offering free wi-fi to customers, said Lozano.

Wi-fi, or wireless fidelity, is a technology that has become popular among businesses, agencies, schools and homes, as an alternative to LAN (local area network). Many airports, hotels and fast-food facilities offer free access to wi-fi networks.

"Customers are accustomed to getting freebies," he said. "There will come a time when they'll demand free wi-fi [sites] as they demand water."

Bo's Coffee on F. Torres Street and Jacinto Extension has been operating in the city in the last two years. It's the only branch in the country that offers free wi-fi to customers.

Freebies

"We're fast gaining this reputation as the most free-wired city outside of Metro Manila," reflects Rizal Giovanni Aportadera, manager of homegrown coffee shop Basti's Brew. The shop began offering wi-fi services long before hotels and other establishments did.

"Davao establishments tend to pamper their customers, but I don't think it's doing the market any good," he said.

Among the many things that the Davao market has been known for is its penchant to demand for freebies.

"Take the bottomless rice, for instance," Aportadera said. "You can only find it in Davao."

Wireless cloud

He easily foresees a time when the city will be under a sort of "wireless cloud," where everyone can just park their cars, open their laptops to connect to the Internet. It is already happening in some areas of the city, he said.

Lozano said that, before Bo's Coffee decided to shift to another Internet provider, the wi-fi from its F. Torres shop would spill toward the neighboring Doña Vicenta village.

"People would just park their cars in Doña Vicenta, take out their laptops, and access the Internet. GlobeQuest, which used to be Bo's internet provider, only wanted to prove how strong their internet connection was to attract more customers," he explained.

"But it wasn't doing any good (to the coffee shop)," he said. "Wi-fi customers no longer enter the coffee shop because they can get the free wi-fi outside."

So, these days, Bo's makes it a point that its wi-fi coverage can reach only up to the edge of their last tables, he said.

Davao has at least 21 establishments offering free wi-fi to laptop-lugging customers, and they don't only cover coffee shops, observes Aportadera.

They include fast-food chains, like Chowking and McDonalds, and the Ateneo de Davao University ECE laboratory to the Matina Town Square Park grounds.

Basti's Brew, which opened its shop on Legazpi Street ahead of the others (it has another branch at the Victoria Plaza mall), has gained strong following through the years.

Come-on

Davao's spending capacity is high, but establishments have been used to offering cheap services as "a come-on," which is not helping the market, Aportadera said. "In fact, it's spoiling it."

Wi-fi customers, however, only make up 25 percent of its clients, which still means that the majority still come for the ambiance and for a cup of coffee. That's why Basti's Brew is putting more premium on its coffee and pastry products, rather than on its wi-fi services.

"The free wi-fi is only an add-on, an icing on the cake," Aportadera said.

Present-day coffee shops are "like parlors and barbershops, where people come to destress and to catch up with the latest talk in town," he said. "They need a cup of coffee or a mug for that. It's a comfort, a refreshment."

He added that, just like in other parts of the country, the cafés had replaced the night bars in Davao.

"Cafés are also better because they're open in the daytime and the coffee will make you stay awake and relax instead of being inebriated," he said.

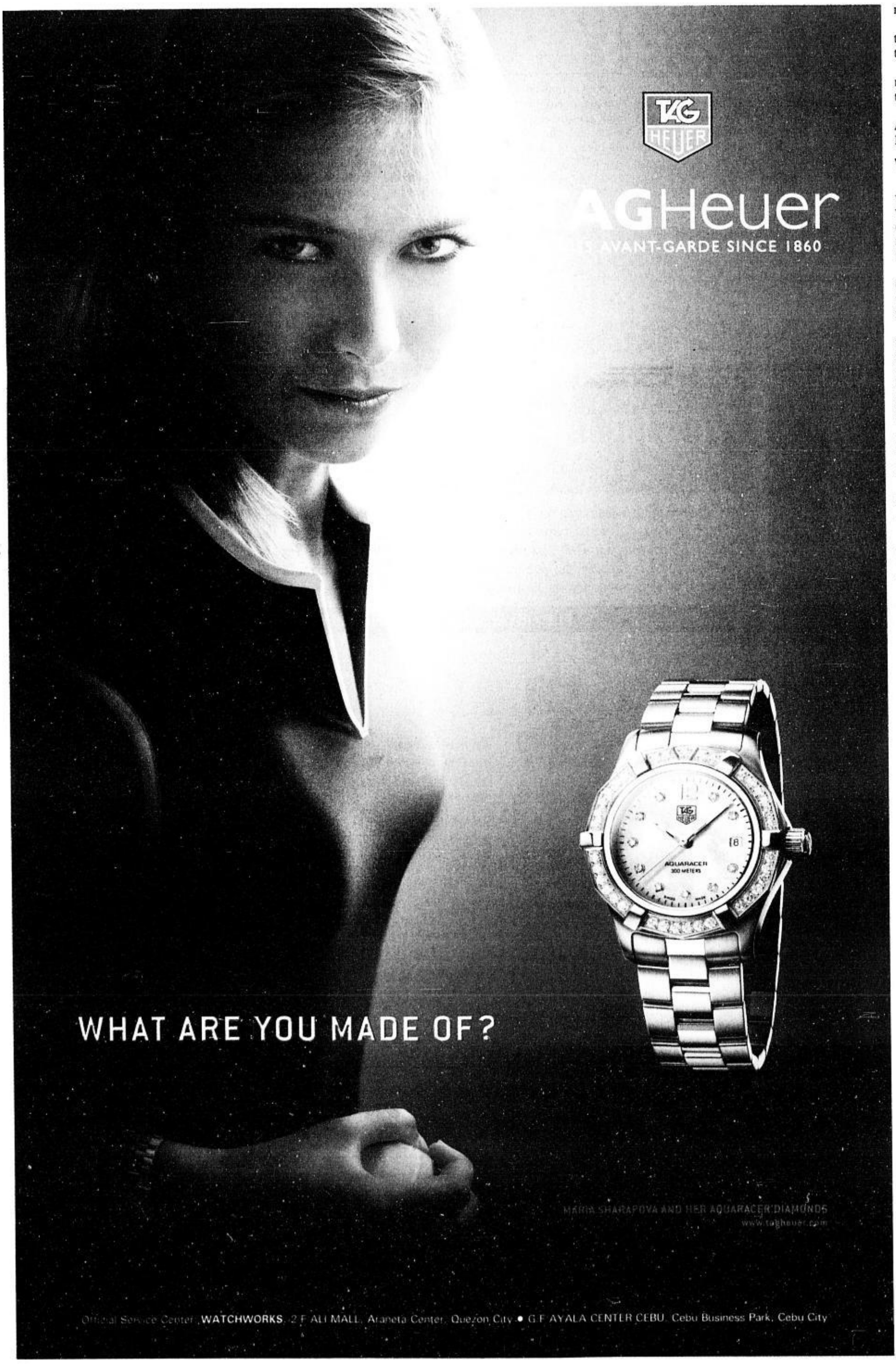
From a sale of only 1,500 cups a month when it started, Basti's average sale now easily reaches 8,000 cups a month.

Things that matter

Lozano said the market's penchant to be choosy had made it the tasting ground for products, including coffee, from different parts of the country.

"We make it a point that our customer service is the best, that our coffee beans are fresh and that our pastries are of the highest quality because this is mainly what we're selling," he said.

IN DAVAO/ B3-2



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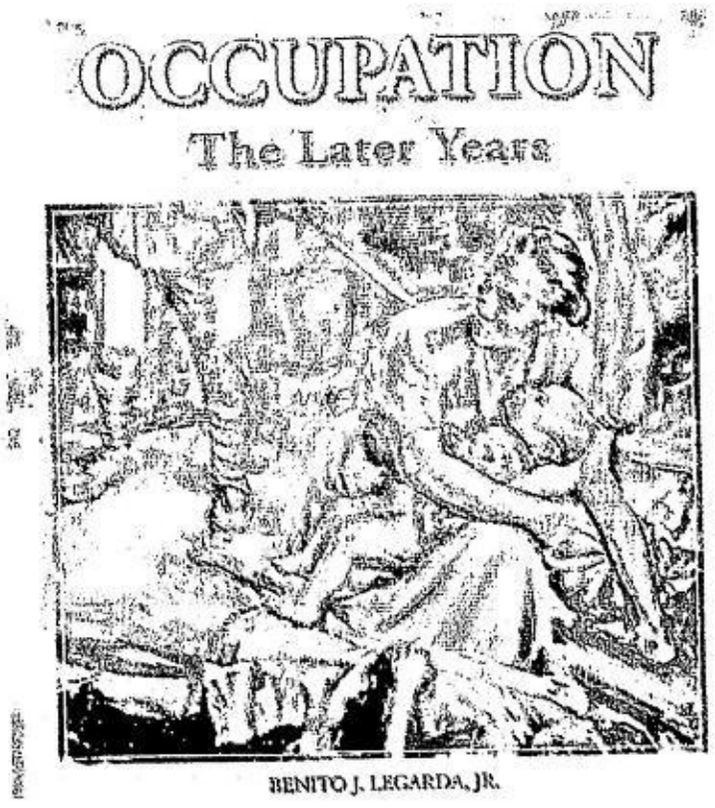
BENITO LEGARDA'S 'OCCUPATION, THE LATER YEARS'

The terrible cost of freedom



By Miguel A. Bernad, SJ
Contributor

ON DEC. 5, 1941, THE Manila Symphony Orchestra held a concert that turned out to be the last for a long time. It was held (as Dr. Benito Legarda Jr. tells us in his new book) "at the elegant... Metropolitan Theater in a beautiful and prosperous city at peace."

Three days later that peace was shattered by the Japanese invasion and subsequent occupation of the Philippines that would result (among other things) in the destruction of the once beautiful city of Manila.

At that concert, the last selection played by the orchestra turned out to be prophetic. It was "Lacrymosa" from Mozart's Requiem. "Lacrymosa," of course, means tearful. The days ahead would bring much grief.

Mozart's great piece of liturgical music was envisioning the tears and grief of the Last Judgment, the Day of the Lord. "*Lacrymosa dies illa, dies magna et amara valde* (Tearful is that day, a great day and very bitter)" (Cf. Zeph. 1.14).

Three-and-a-half years later, on May 9, 1945, the Manila Symphony Orchestra would once again hold a concert. But this time not in an elegant theater but in the ruins of the once beautiful Santa Cruz Church. The churches and the city were in ruins, but the country and the people were again free. To celebrate that freedom, the orchestra played two great works: Beethoven's Third Symphony, "Eroica," and Dvorak's "New World Symphony."

The choice of "Eroica" was particularly appropriate. The American critic H.L. Mencken (Legarda tells us) said even in the musically prolific 19th century, there was nothing greater than the First Movement of "Eroica": "Its first crashing chords usher in not the transient agonies of romantic love but the eternal tragedy of man."

That concert amid the ruins must have been dramatic. Legarda describes the beginning:

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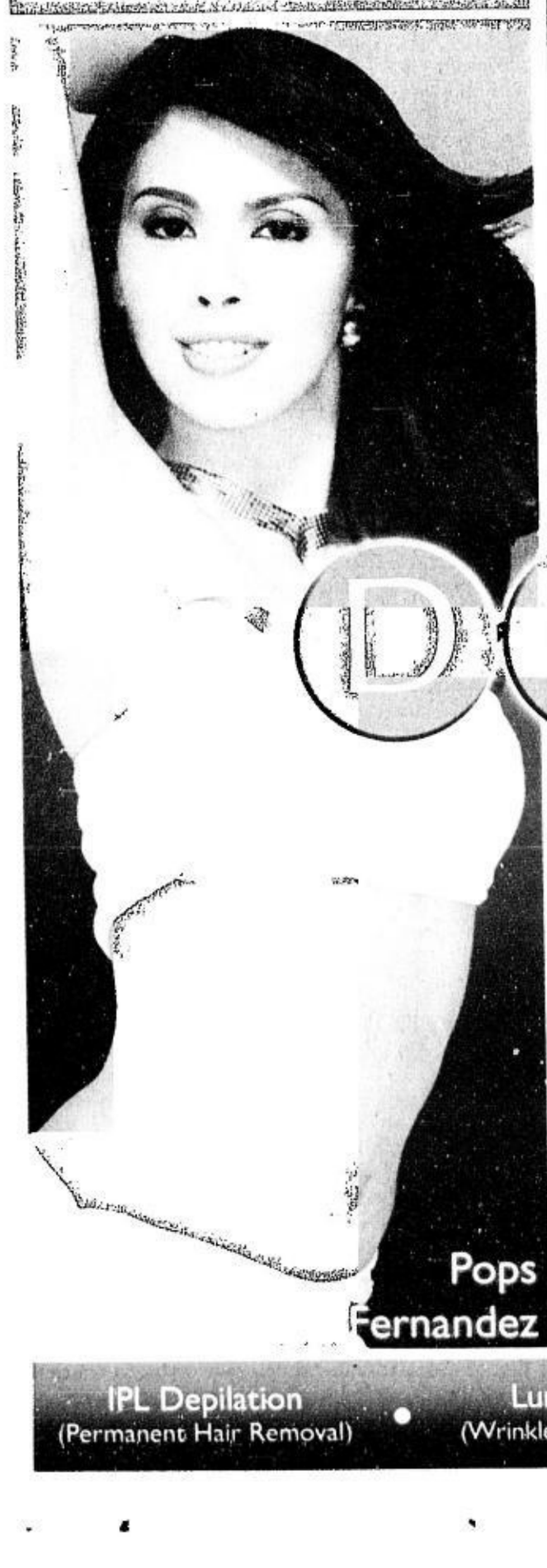

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Into the 'Twilight' zone

Mixing horror and romance, Stephenie Meyer's irresistible teen vampire love story is like nothing you've read before

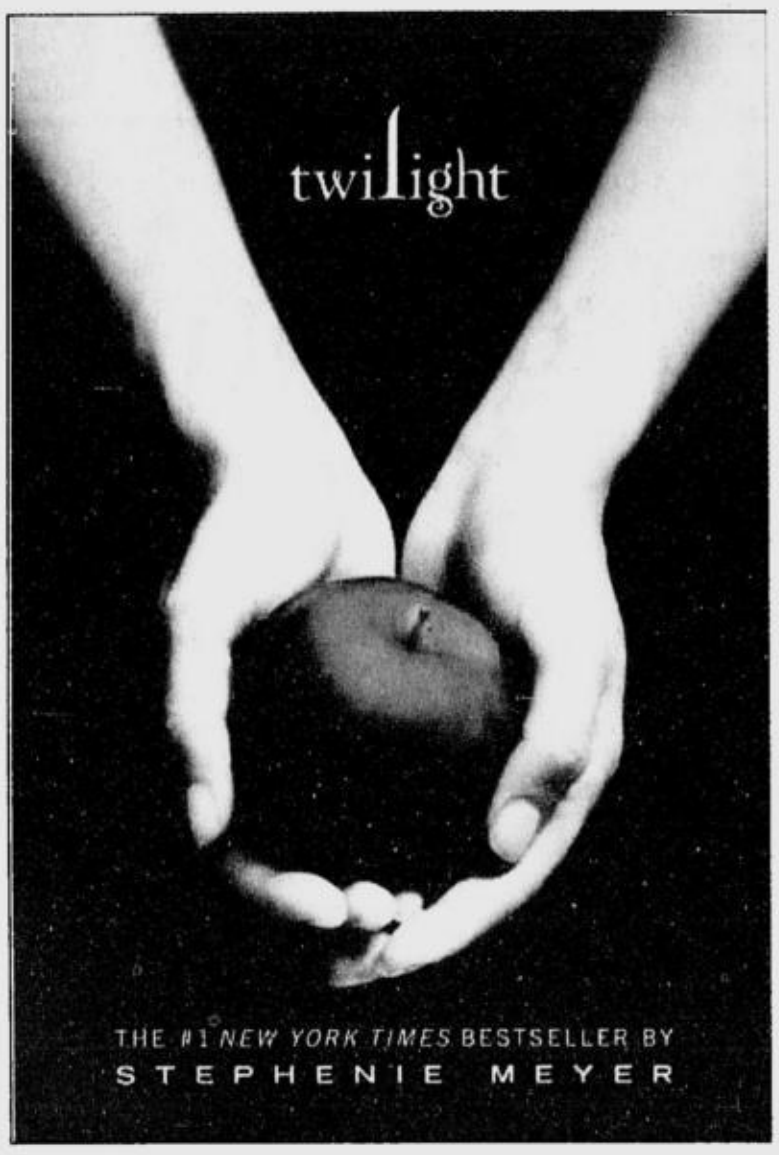
By Ruel S. De Vera

TWILIGHT, THE vampire says, is "the safest time of the day for us. The easiest time. But also the saddest, in a way… the end of another day, the return of the night. Darkness is so predictable, don't you think?"

What is not predictable at all is Stephenie Meyer's "Twilight" series, in which the vampires are so deliciously human.

Starting with "Twilight" (Little, Brown and Company, New York, 2005, 498 pages), continuing with "New Moon" (Little, Brown and Company, New York, 2006, 563 pages) and "Eclipse" (Little, Brown and Company, New York, 2007, 629 pages), Meyer mixes elements of gothic horror with young romance so seamlessly that the "Twilight" books seem to constitute a new genre.

In "Twilight," 17-year-old Isabella "Bella" Swan is facing a change of scenery on so many levels. Her divorced mother has remarried, and Bella wants to give the couple space by moving back with her father, Sheriff Charlie Swan, to the tiny town of Forks, Washington, where it seems to be eternally raining. But while trying to integrate into her new school's teenage population, she meets a beautiful, mysterious boy named Edward Cullen, who just happens to be a vampire. "Twilight" chronicles their emotional bloodletting and journey to devotion in unaffected fashion, making it the superior book of the series.



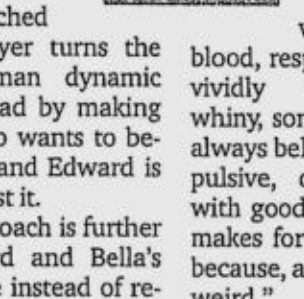
Meyer goes in a slightly different direction when the fur flies in the sequel, "New Moon." Like all star-crossed lovers, Bella and Edward are separated, and devastated. As people have been disappearing in the forest and large wolves have been sighted prowling the woods, Bella finds herself falling for a hunky friend. But the wooing is interrupted when Bella flies to the mysterious city of Volterra, Italy to save the love of her life. Reunions amid confrontations ensue and terrible bargains are made while the vampires' most bitter enemies enter her life in unexpected ways. More action-packed than "Twilight," this book is steeped more heavily in fantasy.

Funniest

Surprisingly the funniest of the three books even as it is also quite sluggish, "Eclipse" takes a long look at things on the home front and is set, and is a noticeably talky book, as everything seems to unfold in conversation. A bizarre love triangle turns even more bizarre and every back story not yet forwarded is thrown into the narrative stew, which, adding to the preponderance of dialogue, weighs the book down. Despite having the best quips and the bloodiest scenes, it pales in comparison to "Twilight," making it the weakest in the series, though "Eclipse" remains a diverting book on its own.

A major part of what makes Meyer's vampires work is how she reinvents the idea of vampirism. Adolescent vampires may seem squarely in "Goosebumps" territory, but Meyer goes further. Aside from a funny sequence where Edward systematically scoffs at all the clichés attached to vampires, Meyer turns the vampire-loves-human dynamic on its undead head by making Bella the one who wants to become a vampire, and Edward is vehemently against it.

This novel approach is further fueled by Edward and Bella's struggles, because instead of redemption, all Edward really wants is happiness. He is very much at peace with what he is, except that his immortality stands between him and Bella, and that, he cannot abide. Edward considers him a constant danger to her. "That is something to be afraid of, indeed," he chides her. "Wanting to be with me. That's not really in your best interest." But Bella refuses to be parted from him, for anything: "Because there was nothing more terrifying to me, more excruciating, than the thought of turning away from him. It was an impossibility." Readers need to remember that this is essentially a love story, so there will be portions that are what Bella calls "disgustingly gooey."



Major chops

Meyer, fascinating because of how she literally dreamt up a crucial scene, exhibits major storytelling chops, like her detailed settings of Forks and Volterra.

Meyer shines in building characters. Every supporting player, from Bella's sports-loving dad Charlie to Edward's darling clairvoyant sister Alice, is memorable. Bella and Edward are the flesh and blood, respectively, of the series, vividly flawed, sometimes whiny, sometimes brooding, but always believable. Smart but impulsive, often misguided but with good intentions, Bella also makes for an excellent narrator because, as she says, "I'm a pro at weird."

All this will leave the reader cursing the long wait until the fourth book of the "Twilight" series comes out in the fall of 2008. Between then and now, there will be many chances for anyone to discover love in the half-light of half-life. There is a movie in the works and Stephenie Meyer may just do for teen vampires what J.K. Rowling did for young wizards. "But, terrified as I was, I couldn't bring myself to regret the decision," Bella Swan realizes. "When life offers you a dream so far beyond any of your expectations, it's not reasonable to grieve when it comes to an end."

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Found in translation

In appropriating the foreign, the Philippines found itself

By Gary C. Devilles
Contributor

IN "THE PROMISE OF THE FOREIGN: Nationalism and the Techniques of Translation in the Spanish Philippines," by Vicente L. Rafael (Duke University Press, 2005, 230pp.), Rafael argues that translation was a key to the emergence of Filipino nationalism in the 19th century and such techniques can be gleaned from various texts such as Rizal's novels, Balagtas' "Florante at Laura," rumors, speeches.

One can see the intimate but fraught connection of literature to nationalist discourse and the function of translation, a project Rafael started with his earlier book, "Contracting Colonialism" (1993), where he maintains that the limits of translation opened up the convergence of linguistic and historical negotiations for the Philippine nation to be articulated as a possibility and imperative.

In this book, Rafael tackles a similar framework, demonstrating that the "promise of the foreign" is predicated also in language, in this case Castilian, that resulted not in union of colonizer and colonized, but in each other's misconceptions, with the effect of estranging both and preserving the foreignness.

Rafael uses the scene in the novel "El Filibusterismo" in which he says the class in Physics becomes an extension of the Church, and scientific education becomes lamentable since students regurgitate lessons and are never allowed to use the instruments. For Rafael, the scene is instructive of how communications between teachers and students are never smooth and they find themselves in the midst of other signs that interrupt the circulation of the language of authority.

Rafael points out how *lengua de tendia*, spoken by the Castillian professor, elicits laughter from students and thus showing how Castilian can be spoken in ways that evade linguistic authority and at the same time students recognizing an authority that comes from the intermittent and interruptive language.

The classroom scene is charged with various semantic registers, according to Rafael, that anticipate the crisis built into the economy of colonial communication.

Colonial communication

It is this crisis in colonial communication that enables people to appropriate the foreign, as noted by Rafael in *comedias* where actors dress up in medieval European fashion. For Rafael, costumes are technics for bringing distances up close the way a photograph conveys the sense of nearness of what is absent.

The eccentric costumes in *comedias* make the actors as if in contact with some place else, in foreign kingdoms of an unseen and indeterminate past. Hence, foreign costumes have the same generative power of language in which audience and actors are suspended as though they were in constant dialogue and communion, transcending time and space barriers.

Aside from the crisis language generates among speakers and listeners, Rafael also discusses the disseminative power of Castilian as demonstrated in Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere." Rizal himself alludes to the novel as being untimely as though intimating that the novel would be best understood in the future.

In one scene in "Noli," the protagonist Ibarra visits Pilosopo Tasio who is busy in his study room, writing hieroglyphics. Ibarra is surprised by the writing, and Pilosopo Tasio tells him future readers will be more discerning and acute and in better position to reckon with his work. Hence, the foreign language allows the work to survive and spread beyond the point of its emergence.

Even if neglected or suppressed, its Castilian language assures that the "Noli" can be discovered through its continuous translation and transmission, says Rafael.

Similarly, such continuous transmission has already been at work with Balagtas' "Florante at Laura," since the author uses Castilian words as well as classical Greek mythology and tragedies. The poem instigates as much as it dramatizes the possibilities of translation dwelling in the midst of untranslated words. It mobilizes the vernacular to conjure the foreign and brings it to lodge in the familiar, thus enabling the promise of the foreign as which is always yet to come, of others who are always yet to hear, and in hearing, respond.

The book contributes to our understanding of the fundamental assumptions informing nationalist discourse, as well as the contradictions and complex realities at work in Philippine society.

By radicalizing our concept of what and who we are collectively, and instead of arguing from essentialist standpoint about what makes us unique, we may begin to see the wisdom in how a community imagines itself based not on who we exclude but rather on who we include. The nation is a complex project and translation is a key to understanding such complexity.

Silent

The book, unfortunately, is silent on how such translation can also be radicalized into an ethical technology such that the reckoning of the foreign within various sociopolitical sites of analysis can be seen as dialectically producing or reproducing the nation.

If Rafael believes the intellectuals and the public have been successful in appropriating the foreign through *comedias* or novels, he must also tell us whether there is still a need for a revolution. We can see translation at work from Ladino poetry to Pasyon, and *comedias* to novels, then we must be able to situate the revolutionary poetry of Bonifacio and Del Pilar or the essays of Jacinto as culmination of this nascent nationalism.

Ultimately, Rafael must also explain the validity and viability of this nationalist project especially now when the world seems endangered by the borderless war on terrorism and that the United States is bent on exterminating all that is "foreign" to it.

The book should also articulate how we, who have been muted or oppressed by the foreigners, are able to learn from our miseducation, since Rizal himself had to reckon with foreigners' misconceptions about Filipinos as well. In other words, the nationalist project must also be transformed into a strategic pedagogy to avoid the mistake of being indebted to the colonizers for the formation of the nation.

The foreigners need not be colonizers, and since we have been dealing with the foreigners even before the colonization of Spain, then our precolonial experience up to the present must inform us of how we are constantly reconstituting ourselves and being reconstituted in the process.

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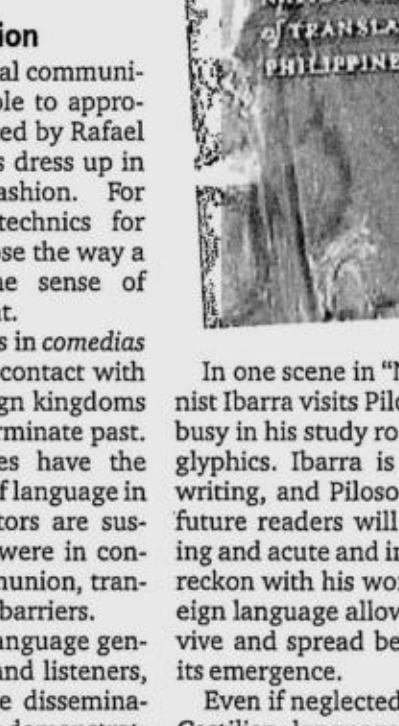
New book on finding your true love



LAY EVANGELIST BO SANCHEZ recently launched a new book, "How to Find Your One True Love: The Complete Course Manual."

The book is a sequel to Sanchez's best-selling book, "How to Find Your One True Love."

In the first book, Sanchez discussed eight Prisons of Fears and Internal Blocks that prevent women—and men—especially those already in their 30s, in finding their ideal life partner.

In "The Complete Course," readers will learn how to get out of those prisons of fears and overcome those internal blocks.

"The Complete Course" gives tips on how to get out of a bad relationship—which is crucial so one will be able to open a new relationship.

The manual also teaches how readers may develop their charm which they will discover is actually tied to Christian values.

The manual includes an 18-Point Moral Inventory to help readers define what they need to change to become an attractive person.

The manual also includes a 6-Item Emotional Health Evaluation for one to mature and, equally important, to find out if one's boyfriend or girlfriend is emotionally healthy as well.

There are also tips on compatibility, how to get a man to propose marriage, and three counterfeit love styles to watch out for in one's partner or suitor.

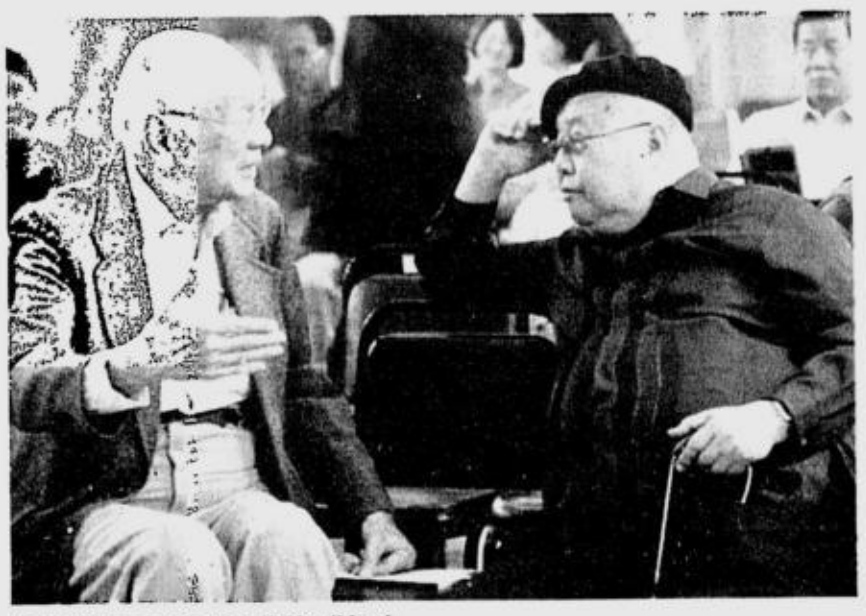
For details, call 4117876 or log on to www.onetruelovenetwork.com.

The terrible cost of freedom

From page C1

"Dr. Herbert Zipper, still looking emaciated after over three years of privation, started the musical proceedings at 7:20 p.m. with the US and Philippine national anthems. Five minutes later, the concert proper was under way, with the first thundering chords of the mighty "Eroica," signaling the start of a new era for the country."

During the intermission, Trinidad F. Legarda (Benito Legarda's mother), president of the Manila Symphony Society, gave a speech explaining the rationale of holding a concert amid the ruins. She later held a garden party at their residence. It was (author Legarda says) "a really uplifting and unforgettable evening and the only question was whether the country would rise to the summons to greatness contained in the music."



BENITO Legarda with F. Sionil José

New book

That is a sample of what one finds in Dr. Benito Legarda's new book, "Occupation, The Later Years" (Vibal Publishing). Like its predecessor, "Occupation '42" (De La Salle University Press), the book is a compilation of articles that appeared in Legarda's weekly column in the Philippines Free Press. Those articles deal with a great variety of things: musical concerts, "comfort women," underground activity, monuments, the confiscation of houses and vehicles, military operations, the terrible massacre of civilians. The topics are many but together they give a picture of what life was like in Manila during the Japanese Occupation.

Legarda's book is particularly good with regard to three things. First, regarding cultural affairs. Dr. Legarda had the advantage of his father's wartime diary and his mother's papers besides, of course, his own personal experiences and the recollections of his friends and relatives.

Military operations

Second, this book is particularly interesting in its vivid accounts of military action on land, sea and air. Legarda uses official sources critically: collating them with the testimony of participants and observers of the events. There is a good description of the naval battle for Leyte Gulf (said to be the greatest naval battle in history). There is also an account of the landings and a detailed account of what Legarda correctly calls the Battle for the Liberation of Manila.

In discussing military action, Legarda stresses the important role played by Filipinos, a fact often omitted or even denied by American writers. Eighty-five percent of the fighting force in Bataan was Filipino. Some of the places where Filipino participation was not only important but decisive include the liberation of the internment camp at Los Baños; the battles for Ipo Dam and Besang Pass; and the "flying columns" of the First Cavalry Division that raced into Manila on Feb. 3, 1945, to liberate Malacañang and the internment camp at the University of Santo Tomas.

In this connection, Dr. Legarda quotes Father Horacio de la Costa's tribute on the death of Manuel Colayco, who had guided the column that liberated the prisoners at Santo Tomas: "He died as he had lived, fighting for something that he loved. But he did not die before he felt for one supreme moment, at the head of a flying column, cool and swift against his face, the wild wind of liberty."

'Most vicious crime'

The last section of the book deals with the destruction of Manila and the massacre of many of its inhabitants. Manila was the most devastated capital in World War II, second only to Warsaw. But in Warsaw there had been an uprising and the destruction of the city was a vindictive reprisal. In Manila there had been no uprising. The massacre of its inhabitants and the destruction of its facilities were gratuitous, premeditated, prearranged, and executed with diabolical cruelty.

What was done in Manila were the same things that Japanese had done in Nanking: "the mass killing, the bayoneting, the beheading, the rape, the slicing open of women after being raped, the impaling of babies on bayonets, the gouging out of unborn fetuses from pregnant mothers." There was however one difference: In Nanking, foreign nationals were respected and were left unharmed. In Manila, even foreigners, even nationals of countries friendly to Japan, were among the victims of Japanese brutality.

The number of dead civilians in Manila was estimated at 100,000. Not all had died from Japanese bayonets or bullets. Many had been killed by American artillery. But the artillery bombardment was in support of military action. Those killed by the Japanese were killed directly and on purpose.

Feeding civilians

One thing mentioned by Dr. Legarda (although the mention is brief and only in passing) is nevertheless of great importance and has not been given enough attention by other writers. It was the fact that the American troops that fought for the liberation of Manila and the Philippines brought with them ample supplies of food to feed not only themselves but also the people whom they were liberating. We who were in Manila at the time and who saw people dying in the streets from hunger could never thank the American people sufficiently for sending us food when it was most needed.

I was at the time "Minister" in charge (among other things) of feeding a Jesuit community at La Ignaciana in Santa Ana, composed of old men and young scholastics and novices and a few retainers—all together more than 50 in number. We had with us three bishops: the apostolic delegate, Guglielmo Piani, Bishop James T.G. Hayes of Cagayan and the infirm American bishop of Jaro, Iloilo. In addition we opened our gates to admit the refugees, streaming in from Ermita, Malate and Paco, whose houses had been burned by the Japanese. All together we had nearly 300 persons in the compound. How could we have fed so many were it not for the generous daily rations we received from the PCAU, the US army unit in charge of civilian needs?

Intramuros

The almost total destruction of the historic Walled City of Manila—Intramuros—was one of the greatest losses of our cultural heritage. The question had been asked: Who was responsible for the destruction of that Walled City? A mechanistic answer is both the Japanese and the Americans were responsible. But this mechanistic answer (Legarda points out) gives "moral equivalence" to both sides. That would be unjust. A more basic question should be asked: Who was ultimately responsible for the destruction of that historic city? The answer is the Japanese.

At the beginning of the war, the Americans declared Manila an open city and thus saved it. The Japanese made Manila a battleground and a killing ground.

The section dealing with the destruction of Manila and the massacre of its inhabitants had been given by Legarda an appropriate title: "The Terrible Cost of Freedom."

Filipinos are Christians and are quick to forgive and forget. But historically the injustice remains unless due atonement is made and unless culpability is acknowledged.

Except for an oral apology by the Japanese ambassador at a commemorative program marking 60 years since the battle of Manila, the Japanese government has never admitted culpability. It has never acknowledged that atrocities had been perpetrated by its soldiers in Manila and the provinces. On the contrary, those most responsible for the atrocities have been declared heroes and have been honored in war-shrines in Japan. Monuments have been erected on Philippine soil honoring the Japanese responsible for killing the inhabitants and the defenders of this country.

Benito Legarda Jr.'s "Occupation, the Later Years" is an important book—scholarly, comprehensive and superbly written.

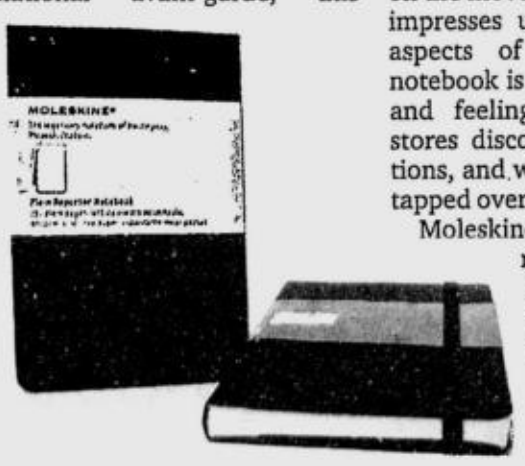
Moleskine notebooks back

FOR THE PAST TWO centuries Moleskine has been the legendary notebook of artists, writers, intellectuals and travelers—from gifted artists Henri Matisse and Vincent van Gogh, poet and leader of the surrealist movement André Breton, to influential writers Ernest Hemingway and Bruce Chatwin.

Originally produced by small French bookbinders who supplied the Parisian stationery shops frequented by the international avant-garde, this trusty, pocket-size travel companion held sketches, notes, stories and ideas before they were turned into famous images or pages of beloved books.

Today, the legendary black notebook is once again being passed from one pocket to the next. With its various page styles it accompanies the creative professions and the imagination of our time.

The adventure of Moleskine continues as it captures reality on the move, pins down details, impresses upon paper unique aspects of experience. This notebook is a reservoir of ideas and feelings, a battery that stores discoveries and perceptions, and whose energy can be tapped over time.

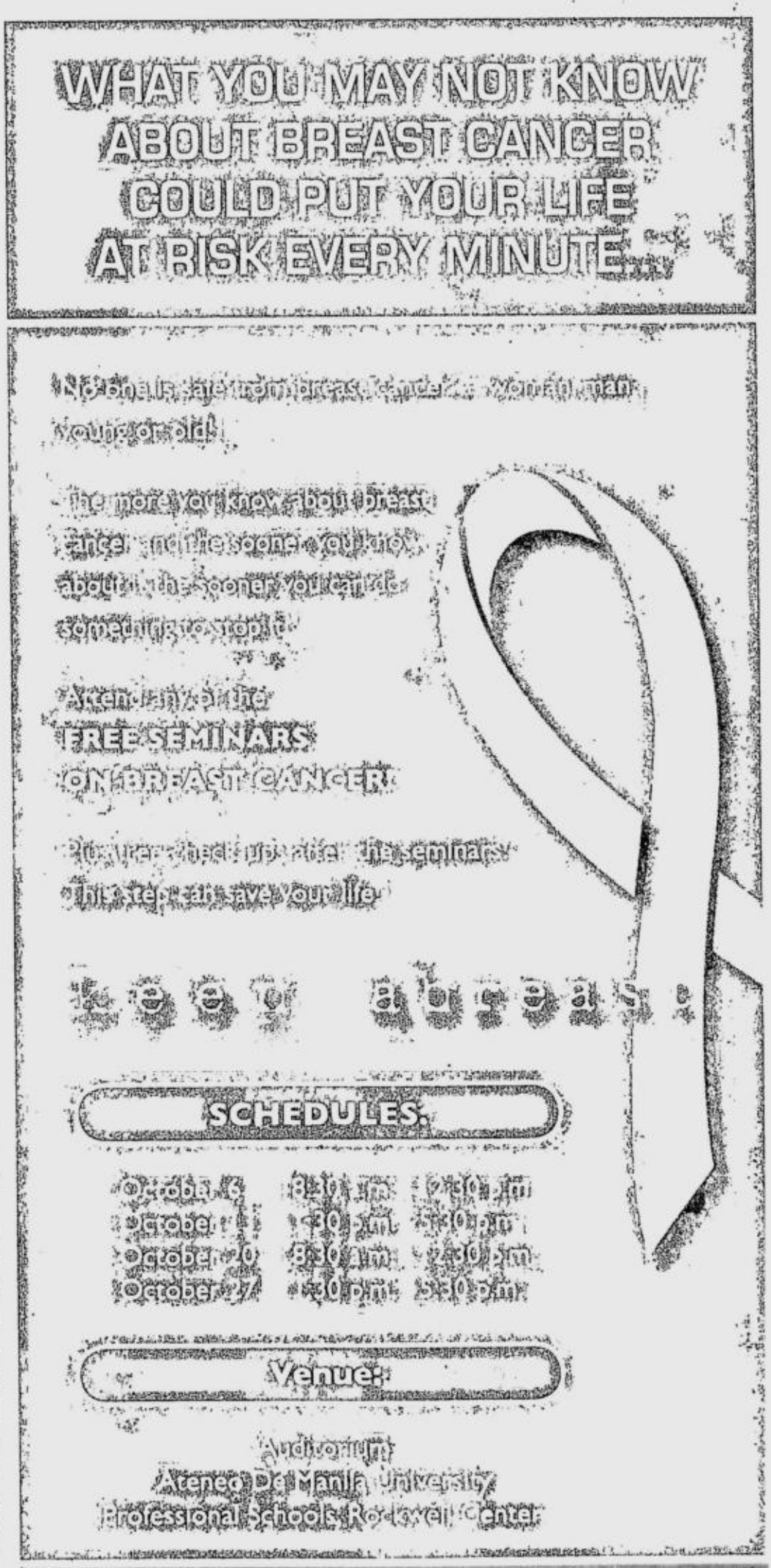


Moleskine notebooks are now available at selected PowerBooks branches. For more information, call our customer-service hotline at 7576428.

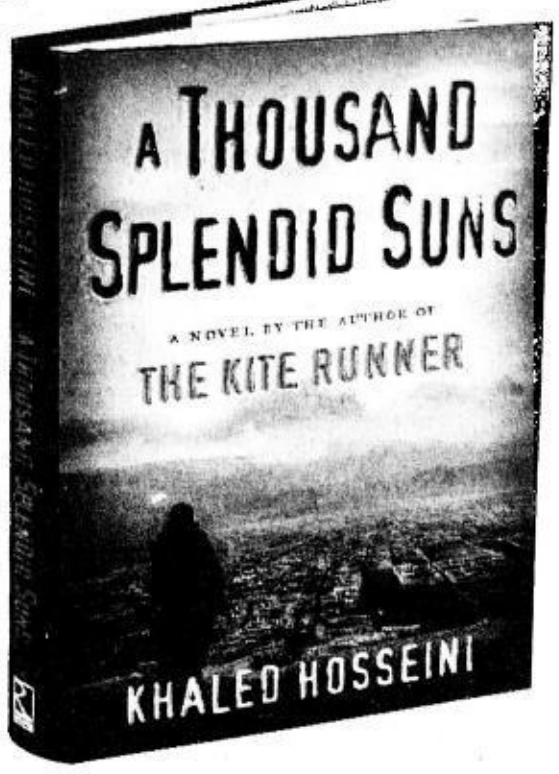
Fellows to creative seminar named

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS-Center for Creative Writing and Studies (UST-CCWS) announces the participants to its seminar-workshop "Flights of Fancy: A Call for Creativity" slated Oct. 11 and 13 at the St. Thomas Aquinas Research Center.

The participants are Mario Mendez of OB Montessori; Dr. Jaime Ang of University of Perpetual Help; Dean Minda Reyes, Rosawanda Motomal, Rhochie Matienco and Naomi Rosales of Manila Doctors College; Elenita Dizon and May Tolentino of St. Catherine's Academy; Kathrina Celina Receno of Montessori de Manila; Mia Tiam of the University of the Philippines; Doroteo Alanguilan of St. Peter's College and Canosa College; Dr. Lito Casaje of La Consolacion College; Gracita Relucio of DLSU-College of St. Benilde; Karry Roque of the University of Santo Tomas; Allen Mayodong of Apayao State College; and Toni Banzuela of Lyceum Institute of Technology. Led by UST-CCWS director Ophelia Alcantara-Dimalanta and senior associate Cirilo Bautista, speakers to the event include junior associates Manolito Sulit, Eros Atalia and Carlomar Arcangel Daoana. Awarding of certificates will cap the event. Call Daoana at 0915-5980989.



Spotlight on 'A Thousand Splendid Suns'



THE POWER BOOK CLUB puts the spotlight on "A Thousand Splendid Suns," best-selling author Khaled Hosseini's follow-up to the critically acclaimed "The Kite Runner." The sweeping novel brings to the forefront the plight of Afghan women brought jarringly together by war, loss and fate.

Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women who go through the horrors of violence, misery, treachery and Taliban cruelty. Maimed and broken by the tragic events that afflict their country, the two women form a powerful bond of sisterhood that gives them hope for redemption.

Hosseini's masterful gift for weaving together powerful imagery and vivid prose gives readers a glimpse of daily life in a war-torn country, making the novel a stirring read.

PowerBooks invites readers to join the Power Book Club discussion of "A Thousand Splendid Suns" Oct. 26, 6:30 p.m., at PowerBooks TriNoma.

PowerBooks Specialty Store is a complete one-stop bookstore with branches at Greenbelt 4 (7576428-29), Megamall (6352898-99), Alabang Town Center (8505662-63), Glorietta 3 (7527075), Shangri-La (6380023/25), Robinson's Place Ermita (5233334, 5243448), Mall of Asia (5560244), Festival Supermall (8508221), and TriNoma (9431581-82).

Peta workshops on musical theater and basic acting

THE PHILIPPINE EDUCATIONAL Theater Association is holding workshops on creative musical theater and basic acting at the Peta Creativity Hub this October-November 2007.

Aspiring stage actors ages 17 can use the Basic Acting workshop to ground themselves in the basic knowledge, skills and attitudes required of stage actors. Experience different schools of acting as applied to works written by renowned Filipino playwrights. Learn from the masters in special dialogues with respected actors, directors and writers.

Musically inclined individuals can join the Creative Musical Theater workshop, which offers training in voice, composition, movement, dramaturgy and Philippine musical forms. The graduation showpiece is an original stage musical production prepared by the workshop participants themselves.

Classes for both Basic Acting and Creative Musical Theater are scheduled 6-10 p.m. on Oct. 15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 29, 31; and Nov. 2-4. Course fee is P6,500 only.

Limited slots available so enter the hub now! Call Julie Bautista or RB Andres at the Peta Theater Center, 5 Eymard Drive, New Manila, Quezon City; tels. 4071418, 4100821, 7256244, 0927-6465635 or 0916-5805153. E-mail mpr@petatheater.com or petampro@yahoo.com.

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'Los Ultimos de Filipinas' to be shown today

An interesting 1945 movie depicts the siege of Baler and valorizes the Spanish debacle

By Lito B. Zulueta

RECENTLY RESURRECTED from the archives, the 1945 Spanish film, "Los Ultimos de Filipinas" ("The Last Ones in the Philippines"; showing tonight at 7, Cinema 2 of Greenbelt 3), has attracted much interest in film and history circles since it depicts the siege of Baler, an incident in the Philippine-Spanish war that seems to have been lost in the annals of Philippine history probably because of the shortsightedness of Philippine historiography and the notorious inaccuracy and myopia of our history textbooks. The lapse is surprising, considering the battle was won by the Filipinos.

In contrast to the victors' omission, the losers seem to have made cathectic capital out of their defeat, investing it with emotional significance and patriotic energy, so that a merry cultural indus-

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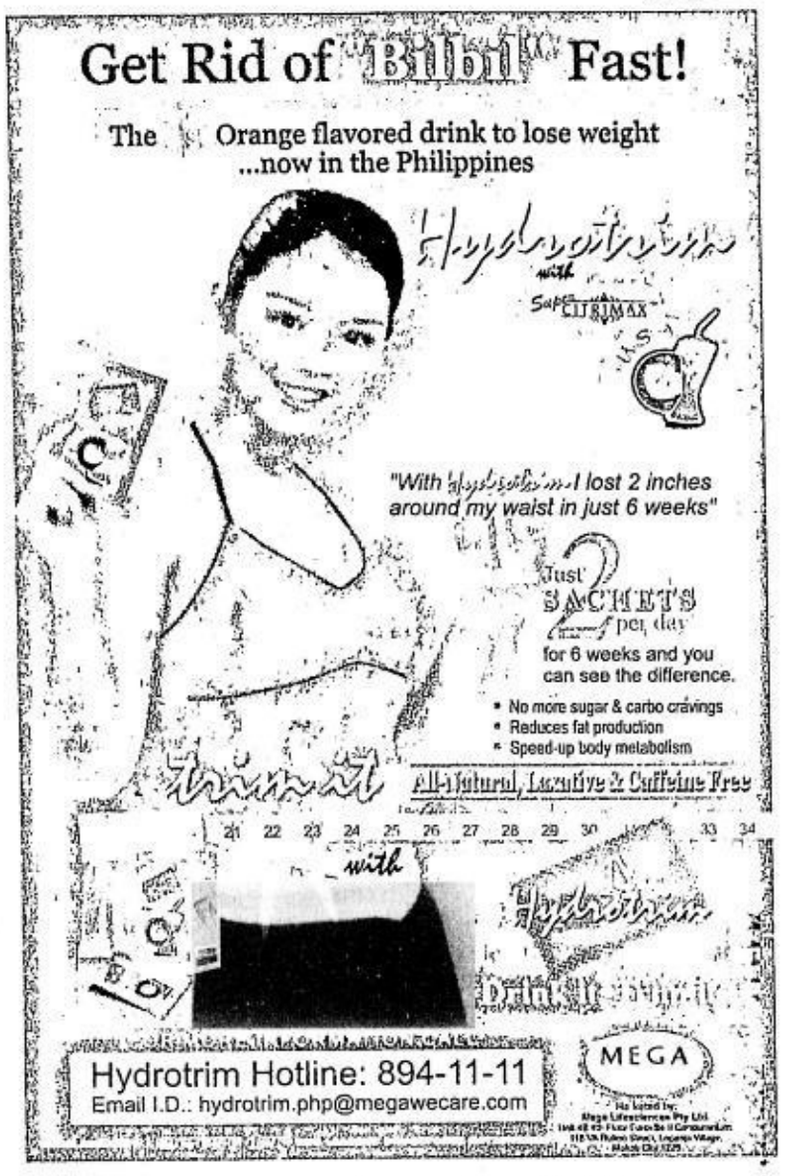
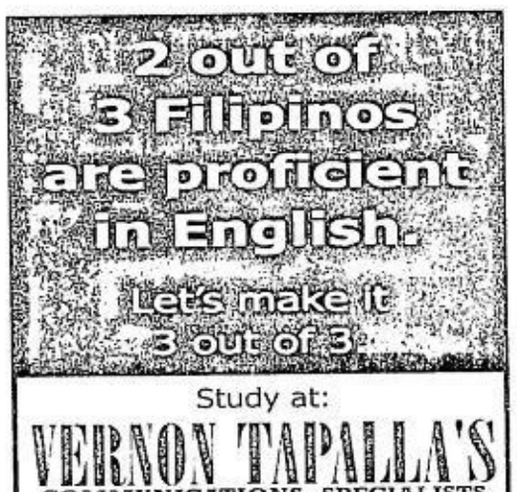
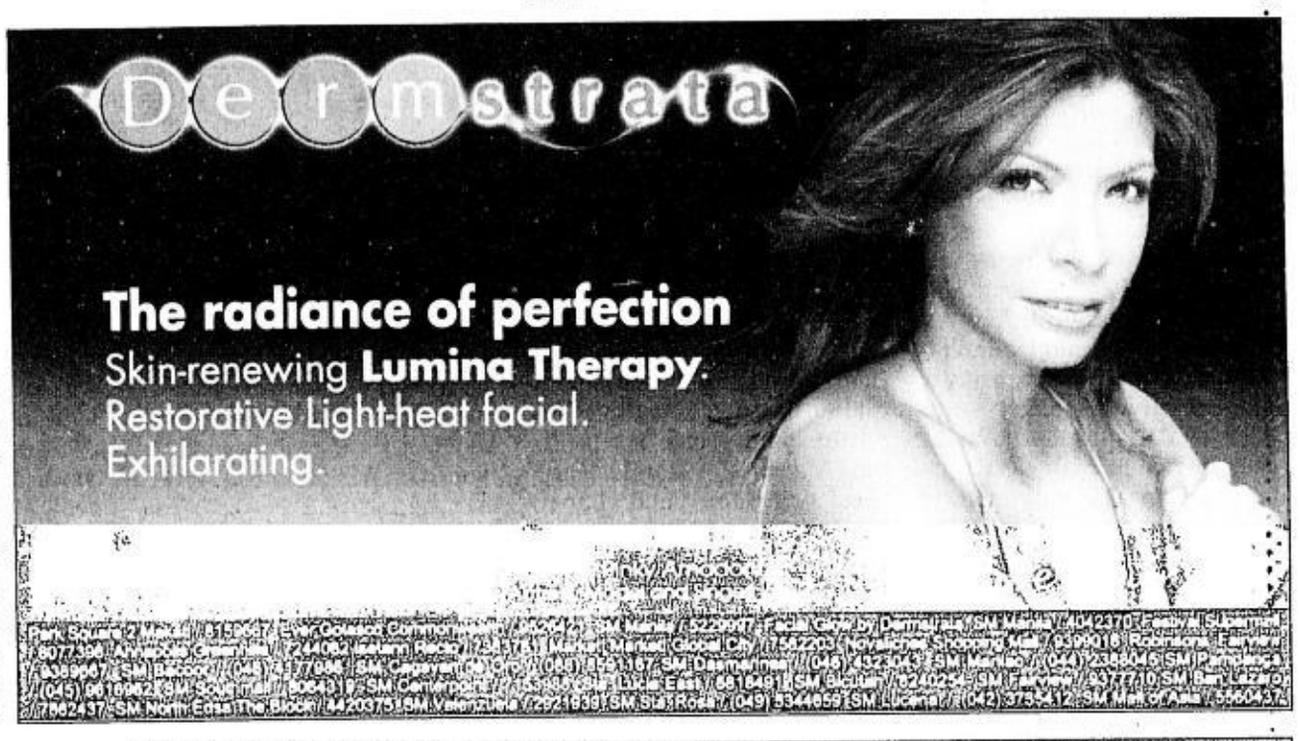
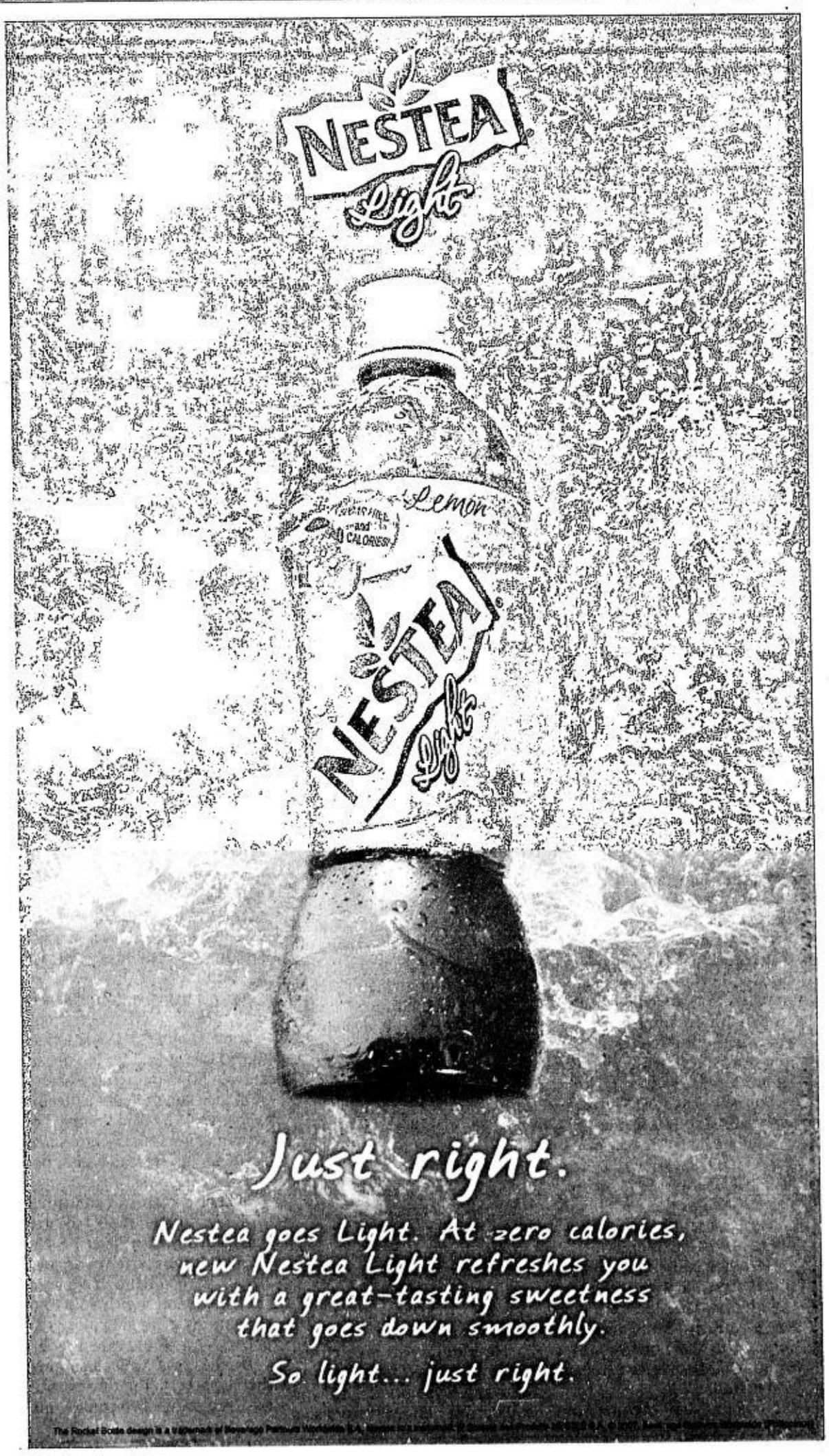








3RD QUARTER 'REPORT CARD': PERFORMING ARTS

Musicals galore

Fides Cuyugan Asensio and (the late) composer Rey Paguio's 'Mayo... Bisperas ng Liwanag' was an absorbing, exciting opera

BAYANIHAN Dance Company

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

THE HUMAN VOICE—our favorite musical instrument—was prominently showcased during the third quarter of the year. The period saw a major vocal recital, a clutch of musicals, a Filipino opera, and a café show by talents from the Philippine Opera Company (POC).

Tenor Sal Malaki and lyric soprano Rachelle Gerodias were a winning and winsome duo in "La Concert Classique" at the Meralco Theater, disarming opera buffs with arias from Verdi and Puccini and songs in international and Philippine languages. The RSVP Ensemble under Ma. Carmen Echevarria rendered fine accompaniment.

A counterpoint to the array of time-honored songs was Michael Dadap's new "Walang Paalam" while Malaki also interpreted the original version of Nitoy Gonzales' lovely "Usahay." The audience clamored for more and then rose to their feet. Unfortunately, Malaki and Gerodias were leaving the stage by then, and the voiceover announcer immediately requested some guests of honor to stand up and be recognized.

Tanghalang Pilipino's revival of Nicanor G. Tiongson's groundbreaking *zarzuela* "Pilipinas Circa 1907" (with music by Gardy Labad et al and direction by Dennis Marasigan) was a well-attended and rousing success. It was effective both as propaganda and as cultural entertainment. There are lessons here for the pro-American Arroyo administration.

As the fiery factory worker Andres, singing actor Bong Cabrera (who gave up a lucrative job in Cebu to pursue an acting career here) held his own among the more dazzling talents in drama and opera, and proved he has a future in theater, musical or straight.

Ballet Philippines' "Rizal Revisited," blending past and present, resurrected characters from the National Hero's novels as seen through the eyes of a contemporary student. It was, as expected, creative, entertaining and innovative. But, from BP, one still longs for a major Filipino-Asian-pop-neoethnic production on the scale of "Tales of the Manuvu," "Rama Hari," "Realizing Rama" and "Babaylan."

Disarming play

The Rizaliana time-travel theme was echoed in Peta's (Philippine Educational Theater Association) "Batang Rizal," in which a Pinoy student in 2007 (Mark Anthony B. Norella) travels to Rizal's time (played by Joseph Keith Anicoche/Christian Segarra), and brings him back to the present!

The disarming, rambunctious

BONG Cabrera in "Pilipinas Circa 1907"

play was written by Christine S. Bellen and directed by Edward Teraña, with music by Vincent de Jesus. Well and good, but for a change let's have something about Andres Bonifacio. Like all our heroes, he was flawed and he was not the multifaceted genius Rizal was. But he led a very exciting life, and was as heroic and as tragic a figure as the official National Hero.

A re-acquaintance with the Bayanihan Dance Company after several years ("Surging to the Crest" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines) reveals that, along with variations of familiar and much-loved folk dances, the company has new and exciting numbers: shoemakers at work on moveable working tables; an all-male precision foot-stomping routine, and a shooting-the-rapids scenario, with the male dancers doubling up as Pagsanjan boatmen.

The pièce de résistance was an underwater spectacle with the males slowly being lowered head down from the rafters, their movements approximating pearl divers descending to the bottom of the sea. The Bayanihan remains our best folk-dance company.

In the hands of conductor Eugene F. Castillo, an exponent of the new music, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra proved it could do justice to a challenging contemporary piece like Lowell Liebermann's "Loss of Breath"—dissonant, pulse-pounding and unnerving, based on an Edgar Allan Poe short story of a man bewitched (*kinulam*) by his wife.

Alfonso "Coke" Bolipata interpreted Max Brunch's Violin Concerto achingly if not frenziedly, overcoming problems like a busted string and a wayward music sheet, and in the process earning an ovation from the capacity crowd at the CCP. The virtuoso felt generous that evening, and obliged with three encores (with piano obligato from Lourdes Gregorio).

Wildly beautiful

Nick Joaquin's short story "May Day Eve" bears the hallmark of great prose being melancholy and wildly beautiful. Set in 1849 and 1890, it vividly encapsulates the tortured relationship between headstrong Agueda and the dashing Badong. There is material here for a novel... or an opera. Which is just what librettist Fides Cuyugan Asensio and (the late) composer Rey Paguio did, crafting the full-length work "Mayo... Bisperas ng Liwanag."

LENA McKenzie

The opera was staged recently at the CCP to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Philippine Women's University School of Music, with soprano Ana Feleo and tenor Jonathan Badon interpreting their roles with feeling. The comely Lena McKenzie, a rising young soprano, shone as Angela, the granddaughter.

The librettist gave Agueda more credit than she deserves (she was not a revolutionary in the Joaquin story). Nevertheless, the libretto, evocative music, the singing, dancing, emoting and historical visuals (which made up for the economical stage design) all added up to an absorbing and exciting work.

Tanghalang Pilipino followed up the success of "Pilipinas Circa 1907" with "Mulan" (by playwright Rody Vera and composer Jed Caballero Balsamo). Director Dennis Marasigan staged it Chinese opera-style, with high-pitched voices, appropriate makeup and costumes, and stylized gestures.

The humor went well with the young audience and did not drown out the "modern" messages—woman power and the absurdities of war—in this retelling of the ancient Chinese legend about the young woman warrior Mulan.

Repertory Philippines' Children's Theater continues to attract busloads of kids accompanied by their teachers, parents, *yayas* (nannies) and at least one grandmother. Showing at Onstage until December is the Disney musical "Cinderella."

While one rediscovered the joys of being childlike—these Rep musicals for children are all captivating—one couldn't but feel some unease at this steady diet of Western fairy tales. How about a musical "Ibong Adarna" next year, Tita Baby and Tita Joy?

Music haven

With a name like Caffé Puccini (Bonifacio Global City, Taguig), no wonder this restaurant, which serves authentic Italian food, attracts classically trained singers who sometimes regale habitués with arias, duets and choral numbers, *kundiman* and Neapolitan songs.

This was the case recently when talents mostly from POC—tenors John Glen Gaerlan and Al Gatmaitan, and sopranos McKenzie and Lara Maígue (both 16)—serenaded the diners. Tenor Frankie Aseniero and soprano Jennifer Uy then joined the group and capped the evening with the warhorse "Nessun Dorma."

Prima ballerina Lisa Macuja-Elizalde remains at her peak ("Swan Lake" at Aliw Theater), ethereal as Odette, and dazzling and riveting as Odile. It was one of her finest performances. Macuja, Russian partner Maxim Chaschegorov, and the excellent dancers of Ballet Manila deserved the prolonged ovation they received. And Gerard Francisco made for an appealing Jester, although he was too good-looking for the role.

Outstanding young tenor Dondi Ong held a recital at Heritage House (Blue Ridge, Quezon City), tossing off aria after aria although he was running a mild fever. He and his group Harana Boys ng Kasarinlan (under the overall direction of Felipe M. de Leon Jr.)—Alex Bite (pronounced Bee-the), Trygve Bolante and Jonaf del Fiero—then launched their first album, "Harana ng Kasarinlan." It was a nice way to cap a busy period in the performing arts.

Recalling Pavarotti's last Manila engagement

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

FILIPINO MUSIC lovers were exchanging endless text messages when they learned about Pavarotti's recent death.

Soprano Fides Cuyugan Asensio, who mounted the Paguio-Asensio opera "Mayo... Bisperas ng Liwanag" at the CCP on Sept. 11-12, said the tenor's demise filled her with a great sense of loss.

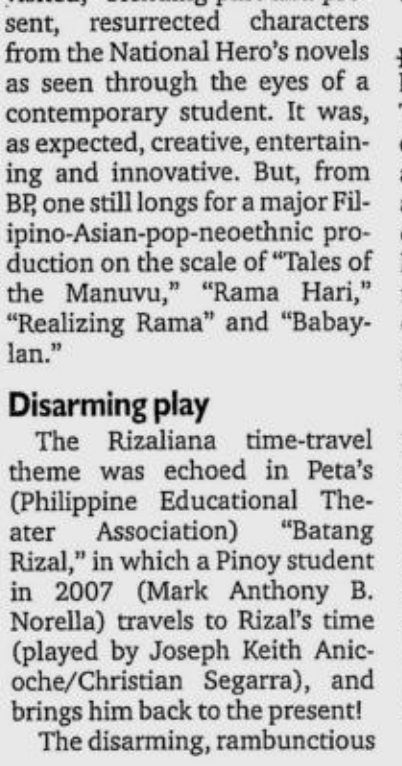
"He has been canceling one engagement after another since last year," she said.

"When I heard about his death, I told myself this was the final 'cancellation' with no hope of 'refund.' He is the icon of my generation, just like Renata Tebaldi, Franco Corelli and Anna Moffo. No tenor of the next generation is on the horizon yet after his death. Thank God for his recordings. But recordings are always too perfect. I loved it when he performed in Manila and he had colds with running nose. And yet he still produced note after gorgeous note with an occasional nasal sound."

Soprano Rachelle Gerodias, who will sing Liu in the 2008 production of "Turandot" in the Vienna State Opera, said: "We just lost one of the greatest voices God has graced humanity with. I feel blessed to have heard him live in Manila."

Gerodias is the first Filipina singer to work with legendary Italian diva Mirella Freni, who was Pavarotti's Mimi when he debuted in "La Boheme" after winning his first voice competition in Italy.

Baritone Noel Azcona, who



LUCIANO Pavarotti AFP

was waiting for a flight to Bacolod when he heard of Pavarotti's death, said he was shocked. "It is a very sad moment, indeed, that we've lost one of the most valuable icons of the musical world. His voice was legendary and will always be remembered in music history. He was truly an inspiration to us singers."

Azcona opened his Bacolod concert with Malotte's "Our Father" and a minute of silence in honor of Pavarotti.

Soprano Nenen Espina noted that Pavarotti's dedication to his craft was exemplary. "He was instrumental in bringing classical music to the masses," she added.

Pianist Mary Anne Espina, who has accompanied an array of international singers, among them the Pavarotti of the Philippines, Otoniel Gonzaga, said she was also saddened to learn about the tenor's death.

"He brought his art not just to the privileged few but more so to the underprivileged who could not afford expensive tickets to the opera houses."

Personal encounter

When he was about to debut in Manila in March 1994 (courtesy of Rose Marie "Baby" Arenas, who brought him here), Pavarotti had to cancel and later postpone his shows after two days because of bad colds.

And so my copy on the front page of Manila Chronicle read: "He came. He coughed. He cancelled."

Two days later, he finally showed up on stage and sang an Act II aria from "Luisa Miller"—obviously still nursing a cold. The flutist Andrea Griminelli's rendition of Mozart's Andante in C gave the tenor enough time to consolidate his voice in between arias.

But he was already straining in the "L'Africaine" aria and in the "Lombardi" aria, "Le mia letizia infondere," which he decided to end an octave lower.

It was the wisest thing to do in that predicament, and not a few in the audience were disappointed.

At this point and for the second time, Pavarotti was contemplating another cancellation in the middle of the Manila concert and confided this to Dr. Roberto Tan, the Chinese Filipino doctor who used a combination of acupuncture, Chinese herbs and antibiotics to treat the tenor before the concert.

When Pavarotti consulted with Tan while the orchestra was playing the "Vespri Sicilliani" Overture, the tenor confessed he could no longer go on. The doctor gently told him to continue singing—or the poor doctor would lose his job.

By the time he was singing the last aria on the first part of the program, "Pourquoi me reveiller," the tenor was regaining his self-confidence, and it showed in his impeccable sense of line.

The last part of the concert looked like the last round of a world-title boxing fight. He mustered all his courage to finish the program, with 4,000 people cheering and applauding his efforts.

At the end of his last number, Pavarotti told the Manila crowd: "I never thought it possible to arrive to this last song. So I am dedicating my encore number, 'Granada,' to Dr. Tan for making it possible for me to finish this concert. You are an incredible audience."

Earlier, during the pre-concert press con, I told Pavarotti that two other great Italian tenors—Ferrucio Tagliavini and Franco Corelli—had already performed in Manila. Looking at me straight in the eye, he said in strong terms he was in awe of those two singers: "Tagliavini and Corelli are the greatest tenors of all time, and if I am able to do at least half of what they had achieved in their time, I would be very happy."

When Jullie Yap Daza asked him if he agreed with the label "the world's greatest tenor," Pavarotti replied with a firm no. "But if you insist, what can I do?"

When Ishko Lopez asked the tenor what his plans were now that he was turning 60, the tenor growled at the startled journalist: "If you asked that question to a lady, I am sure she will kill you, because I am turning 59 this year [that was March 1994] and I am not yet 60. As for retiring, well, my father still has a full voice at 81, but I hope to stop before that age. But I don't know. I cannot promise."

'Children's Letters to God' back onstage

THE MANILA PRODUCTION of the Off-Broadway hit musical "Children's Letters to God" is back for more shows at Insular Life Auditorium, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, on Oct. 13, and at Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza Oct. 20-21.

The musical will once more showcase 2007 World Championships of Performing Arts (WCOPA) Overall Champion of the World Aria Clemente, Singapore-based thespian and singer Julia Abueva, Micah dela Cruz, Tippy dos Santos, Moreen Guese, Vince Ching, the Sison brothers—Marek, Enzo, and Ruiz, Jaime Calabig, and Nacho Tambunting. An addition to the cast is Bianca Rogoff.

Taken directly from the letters of young people writing to the "Big G," the musical follows the lives of five young friends as they voice beliefs, desires, questions, and doubts common to all people but most disarmingly expressed by children. Sixteen tuneful songs and assorted scenes (some based on actual letters) explore issues such as sibling rivalry, divorce, holidays, the loss of a beloved pet, the trials of being unathletic, and first love.

Stuart Hample, creator of the best-selling book, has adapted "Children's Letters to God" from the page to the stage with music by David Evans ("Birds of Paradise") and lyrics by Douglas J. Cohen ("No Way to Treat a Lady"). Bart Guingona directs, with Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo as assistant director, Michael Williams as musical director, Denisa Reyes as choreographer and Gino Gonzales as production designer.

Call 8919999 or visit www.childrensletterstogod.com.ph.

Piano recital marks Sta. Isabel's 375th year

PIANIST Cristine Coyiuto

PIANIST CRISTINE COYIUTO WILL perform works by Händel, Grieg and Rachmaninoff in a piano recital on Oct. 14, 4 p.m., Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino, Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Supporting her on the cello is Antoni Josef Inacay.

The recital is part of the celebration of Sta. Isabel College's 375th year (1632-2007).

Coyiuto began studying piano with her mother at the age of three and gave her first solo recital at the age of 9. She studied with Nelly Domingo Castro and Benjamin Tupas before continuing with pianist and pedagogue Rosario Picazo at the Sta. Isabel College. Attending the Juilliard School in New York City as a pupil of Jacob Lateiner, she received her Master of Music degree with high honors.

Several grants and awards enabled Coyiuto to further her artistic development in Europe with renowned pianists Gaby Casadesus, Nikita Magaloff, Fou Ts'ong and Philippe Entremont. She was a laureate of the Académie Internationale de Musique "Maurice Ravel" in St Jean-de-Luz, France and Genève Conservatoire in Switzerland.

Coyiuto has given numerous recitals in the US, Canada, United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Philippines, and has appeared as an orchestral soloist with the Vancouver Symphony, Vancouver Chamber Orchestra, New Westminster Orchestra, Orchestre du Capitole de Toulouse, Singapore Symphony, Manila Symphony, Manila Chamber Orchestra, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra and the Metro Manila Community Orchestra. She has been heard on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Singapore Broadcasting, Radio Hong Kong, Radio Taiwan and DZFE Manila.

In commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg (1843-1907), Coyiuto just recently performed his famous Piano Concerto in A minor with internationally acclaimed conductor Helen Quach conducting the Manila Symphony Orchestra. Quach called her performance "full of heroic nobility, artistry and poetry as well as brilliant virtuosity ... a great pianist!"

For her Oct. 14 concert, she will be performing Georg Friedrich Händel's Chaconne in G Major, Edvard Grieg's Lyric Pieces, Sergei Rachmaninoff's Moments Musicaux and Sonata in G minor for Cello and Piano.

Tickets are P1,500 and for students, P500. Call Beth at 0922-8135828 or Imelda at 8131866.

Gantimpala presents "Ang Pagong at ang Matsing"

INSPIRED BY THE COMIC strip drawn by national hero Dr. Jose Rizal and made into a children's play by Palanca award-winning writer J. Dennis Teodosio, "Ang Pagong at ang Matsing" opens in Manila for a limited engagement.

The play's music is composed by noted musical director Jesse Lucas, with direction by Gantimpala Theater's artistic director Tony Espejo.

Espejo presents a musical version that gives kids and the young-at-heart lessons about friendship, fairness, forgiveness, sharing and laughter, presented by singing and dancing humans that take on animal and plant qualities.

Michael King Urieta (Pagong), Francis Ong (Matsing), Meldea Flor Formacil (Suso, the best friend of Pagong) and Anthony Cruz (Tarsier, partner in crime of Matsing); Rommel Ponseca (Mango), Ronald Concepcion (Acacia), John Paolo Garcia (Mangrove), Rene Nisperos (Upper Banana Part) and Rommel Aratan (Lower Banana Part) are the main characters.

Bringing the colorful world of "Ang Pagong at ang Matsing" to life are Joey Nombres (lights designer), Anthony Cruz (choreographer), Allain de Leon (assistant director), Jay-R Inocencio (stage manager) and Jorge Cabullo (production manager).

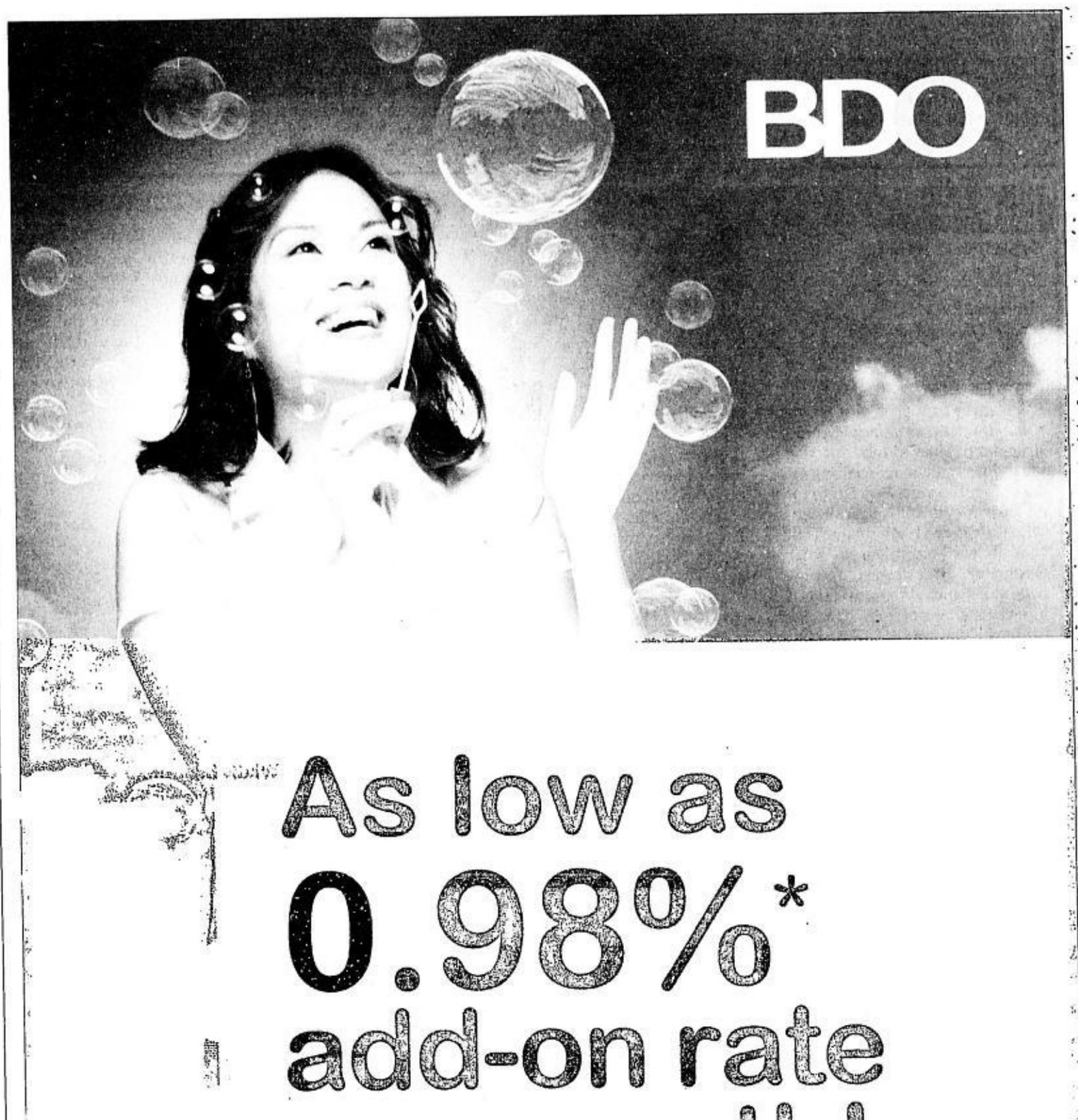
Fresh from successful performances in Subic, Pampanga and Tarlac, this special Pearl Anniversary presentation will have a limited Manila run starting Oct. 18, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., and Oct. 24, 25-26, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

"Ang Pagong at ang Matsing" will also tour Cavite (SM Bacoor on Nov. 28, 29 and 30), Cebu, Baguio and key provinces in Mindanao early next year.

Also, a special public showing of the musical "Handog ng Gantimpala Para sa Kabataan ng Maynila" is slated on Dec. 1, 7 p.m., at the Concert at the Park Open Air Auditorium in Luneta, Manila.

For the Manila shows, call 8995745 or 8963503. For the touring performances, call 5280603 or (04)-5365860. E-mail gantimpalaproduction@yahoo.com.ph

"ANG Pagong at ang Matsing" cast



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'Los Ultimos de Filipinas' to be shown today

From page D1

Peeking into the future

By Ronald Baytan
Contributor

"Utopia"
Director: Maria Ripoll
2003

CAN WE CHANGE THE future? "Utopia" explores this question through the lives of three people: Adrian (Leonardo Sbaraglia), a pre-cog who wishes to renounce his gift and his group, Utopia, because he can see the future but cannot seem to change it; Angela (Najwa Nimri), a rich Spanish girl who witnesses a massacre in South America and eventually ends up in the hands of a strange sect; and Hervé (Théky Karyo), an ex-policeman who "deprograms" people who have been victimized by notorious sects. Because of Utopia—an organization of pre-cogs dedicated to saving the lives of people who can "change the ways of the world"—their paths cross.

Hervé and Adrian are actually not strangers to each other. The film begins with Adrian's visit to Hervé to help thwart a series of murders committed by Daniel, a deranged member of Utopia. Unfortunately, Hervé ends up seeing his wife and son die as they happen to be passing by when Daniel detonates the bomb just outside the police station. This traumatizes Adrian who decides to forsake his gift. Six years later, Hervé is hired by Angela's mother to rescue her daughter from a sect-cum-guerrilla group; and Adrian, out of gratitude to the ailing Samuel, his pre-cog mentor and foster father, embarks on his last Utopian mission to save Angela. What happens when Adrian meets Angela and when Hervé encounters Adrian anew?

All the three characters have been scarred by life: Adrian and the many deaths he has foreseen and "experienced"; Angela and the massacre; Hervé and the death of his wife and son. But the film shows us that something must matter more than death, or

grief, or disillusionment. The change in the three characters at the end of the film is credible and reinforces the film's vision about the impregnability of human will. And the commendable performances of Sbaraglia, Nimri and Karyo have given the characters depth and complexity.

The relationship of Adrian and Samuel is also an important aspect of the film. It is Samuel who teaches Adrian love of the Self ("You can't deny what you are") and the role of the Self in molding its destiny ("Not acting and letting ourselves be carried away by life is what can drive us crazy").

In the end, one may ask: What is the use of seeing the future? What is the use of tracking down the fragile and the special? Through Maria Ripoll's intelligent direction and David Carrero's fine cinematography, the film triumphantly proclaims its answer: "The future can be changed." Adrian says to Angela: "Utopia means 'without a place.' Not that it doesn't exist, but that it still doesn't have a place, that it doesn't have a place yet, but it will." And that place lies not in the future which has yet to exist, but in the present which is the only space where what is foreseen can be made real. When Angela asks Adrian if they will meet again, Adrian answers, "Yes." Not because he has seen it, but because he wants it.

Ronald Baytan teaches literature and creative writing at De La Salle University-Manila. His first book, "The Queen Sings the Blues: Poems, 1992-2002," published by Anvil, is coming out next month.

The music life

By Sid Gomez Hildawa
Contributor

"Habana Blues"
Director: Benito Zambrano
2005

THE FILM, "HABANA BLUES," gives us a peek past Havana's tourist-poster façade into the struggles of blues musicians trying to break into the commercial music industry. Protagonists Ruy Santos with his best friend and musical partner Tito Garcia lead their band in rehearsals and recordings in a small apartment transformed into a makeshift studio, then audition before visiting agents from Spain working on an album to be released in Miami. As it turns out, the album is meant to feature new talents whose music is critical of the regime in Cuba, so the whoever joins this project risks becoming a political exile in Madrid where the album will be produced. The choice is further complicated by ties to families and properties, to a way of life and ultimately a country.

The city with its scenic streets and colonial architecture serves as a metaphor for the façade that Cuba presents to the outside world, an image complete with food and music for tourists oblivious to the hardships of life under a long-standing trade and travel embargo: the few phone lines available have terrible connections, there are long queues in supermarkets with nearly empty shelves, the media are under state control. And yet, the Arts (in this case music) continue to thrive and flourish, which reminds me of our own artistic renaissance during the Martial law years. To be sure, the Philippines and Cuba share many things in common apart from its Spanish colonial past.

Although this is definitely not a musical, the lyrics of original songs featured in "Habana Blues" serves as clues to a deeper reading of what goes on under the façade. Aside from moving the story forward and revealing inner yearnings, the songs can also wax poetic, as when it says, "your sadness and your pain are Havana's skyline," or mockingly ironic as when it says, "sing me the blues before the light comes back on." In the end, the issues presented here are what confronts those of us who leave to work abroad or choose to migrate overseas: our coming to terms with the true meanings of "home," "community," "country," and whether or not we can still play our music on an empty stage.

Sid Gomez Hildawa is an award-winning artist and poet. He heads the Department of Visual, Literary and Media Arts of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

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Last men standing

try has emerged from the Spanish debacle. In a way, the episode is rife for Spanish flag-waving considering that the Spanish force, numbering only 50 soldiers, was able to hold its ground against the vastly superior might of 800 Filipino troops, extending the battle for eight months until it had to raise the white flag since its provisions had run out.

The culture industry is evident in the fact that "Los Ultimos" was originally a radio play that, in turn, was based on several books and publications outdoing one another in coming up with the final and most definitive account of the battle. In short, the siege of Baler has become part of Spanish popular culture, of Iberian lore and legend.

Filipinos may find the colonial valorization off-putting, but they should take the reductionism with a grain of salt. In the same way, they must be prepared for the usual stereotyping, such as the Pinoy damsel so in love with a Spanish officer that she's willing to turn her back on her own people and follow him to Spain, and the seeming lack of rhyme and reason of the Filipinos' assaults, their ignorance of military strategy. If this were a Hollywood cowboy movie, the Filipinos would be the Indians.

But it could have been worse. Since it does not pretend to fairly tackle the battle from the enemy side, "Los Ultimos" avoids painting the Filipinos as "the Other" and therefore hardly risks demonizing them. It focuses rather on the everyday life of the besieged, with much insight and humor, such as the cook during the troops' retreat muttering about the bad timing since it's the day when he's supposed to cook paella. Moreover, the movie has rich characterization.

It is easy to see why the responses of victor and vanquished are starkly different. While the Spaniards valorize their defeat, the Filipinos seem merely to begrudge themselves their victory. When Spain some years back agreed to mark the Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day on the date of her Baler surrender, it showed its confidence, magnanimity, and, to some extent, a lingering paternalism. Spain has since marked the annual celebration eagerly.

To the Filipinos perhaps, Baler was a pyrrhic victory. While they were trying to take Baler, the Spanish-American war had ended and its conclusion meant the coming of the upstart Americans and on to the horrors of the "first Vietnam."

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PRIDE OF PLACE
Augusto Villalon

Remember Teachers Camp?

TEACHERS Camp, 100 years old in 2008, is one of the last open spaces in Baguio where forests of pine trees remain.

WHO DOES NOT REMEMBER Teachers Camp? For the past five or six generations, almost every Filipino teacher or student has had a Teachers Camp experience, spending a few education-enriching days or even a fortnight, for the fortunate few, in green-and-white pre-war cottages under the pines in cool Baguio air to attend a live-in conference or training event.

Teachers Camp, founded in 1908 by the US colonial government as a mountain retreat for the first group of American teachers, the Thomasites, needing a respite from lowland tropical heat, has a unique heritage. Since its early Thomasite days, generations of Filipino teachers and students have gone to Teachers Camp for educational training, conferences and seminars.

It is a place intrinsic to the history of the Department of Education and has become part of the educational ethos of many Filipinos. It is a nationally recognized teaching facility, also one of the nationally recognized Baguio City icons along with Session Road, Burnham Park, Mansion House, Wright Park and Camp John Hay. It is the last of the large, open, undeveloped parcels of government-owned land remaining in Baguio. The other large parcel, Camp John Hay, is now privatized as a mixed-use real-estate development.

Founded as a rest and recreation facility for teachers and also as a venue for summer training programs for teachers, education is the primary legacy of Teachers Camp. Its secondary legacy is that it is one of the few surviving Baguio environments today, a wide-open area still relatively forested with pine trees and landscaped in the typical but vanishing flowered Baguio garden style, where original green-and-white wooden architecture, once a Baguio City hallmark, still survives.

ONE of the last surviving groups of traditional wood-and-stone Baguio vacation "cottages" painted green and white is still found in Teachers Camp.

The distinct Baguio identity of mountainous terrain with green-and-white architecture nestled under pine trees has vanished. Baguio is polluted, shoddy, dirty, ugly

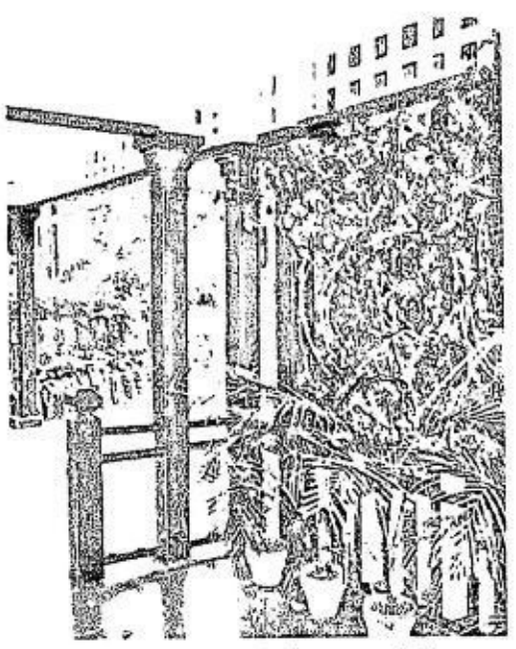
Hills station

The American colonial government built Baguio in the early years of the 20th century. However, Baguio has never taken its deserved place in the Asian chain of colonial Hill Stations (Simla and Darjeeling in British India, Bandung in Dutch Indonesia, Cameron Highlands in British Malaysia, Dalat in French Indochina).

Making Baguio stand out in this chain of upland vacation retreats is the fact that it is the only American-designed Hill Station in Asia. The green-and-white American-style wooden architecture once so prevalent in the Baguio mountain terrain is the only one of its kind in Asia.

Baguio is of pedigreed origin and Teachers Camp is part of that pedigree. Designed by Daniel Burnham, the leading American urban planner of the day, vast urban parks (Burnham and Wright Parks) opened up broad city and mountain vistas and served as visual and circulation anchors for the city.

A network of winding roads connected main points of the city—the City Hall overlooking a large park with a lagoon (now known as Burnham Park), Mansion House (the summer residence of the Philippine president), Camp John Hay (former American military rest and recreation facility), and Teachers Camp.



A PORCH frames a typical, now vanishing, Baguio view of green-and-white architecture and a profusely flowering garden.

Session Road, the city commercial center that leads uphill in a straight line from the Baguio Market now connects to a new mall at its top end. It is likewise well-known throughout the Philippines as part of the Baguio image. Today a gigantic new mall at the top of Session Road now seriously threatens the future of its small commercial establishments that have been there for generations.

The distinct Baguio identity of mountainous terrain with green-and-white architecture nestled under pine trees is fast vanishing. The single largest remaining ensemble of that identity survives in Teachers Camp. Although no other city in Asia or in the Philippines has an identity like Baguio's, the identity today is vanishing rapidly.

Baguio in decay

Unregulated development has caused Baguio to lose its luster as the Philippines' most popular mountain retreat. Nondescript concrete buildings and residences have replaced the traditional green-and-white architecture. Informal settlers' shanties now cover urban mountain vistas, once open green spaces, in sheets of rusted tin roofing.

Pine trees, once a familiar sight of Baguio landscape, have practically disappeared. Heritage, whether urban, architectural, or landscape, neither protected by legislation or by zoning, does not appear to be within the sphere of interest of most city authorities and residents, therefore urban and architectural heritage is going fast, and vanishing rapidly also is its landmark umbrella of pines and multicolored flowers.

Present-day Baguio is homogenizing into the generic, typical look of 21st-century Philippine cities. Only its mountainous terrain now reminds us that once this was the glorious Summer Capital of our Land and the only American Hill Station in Asia.

Since Baguio mystique and tradition are practically gone today, it is necessary to

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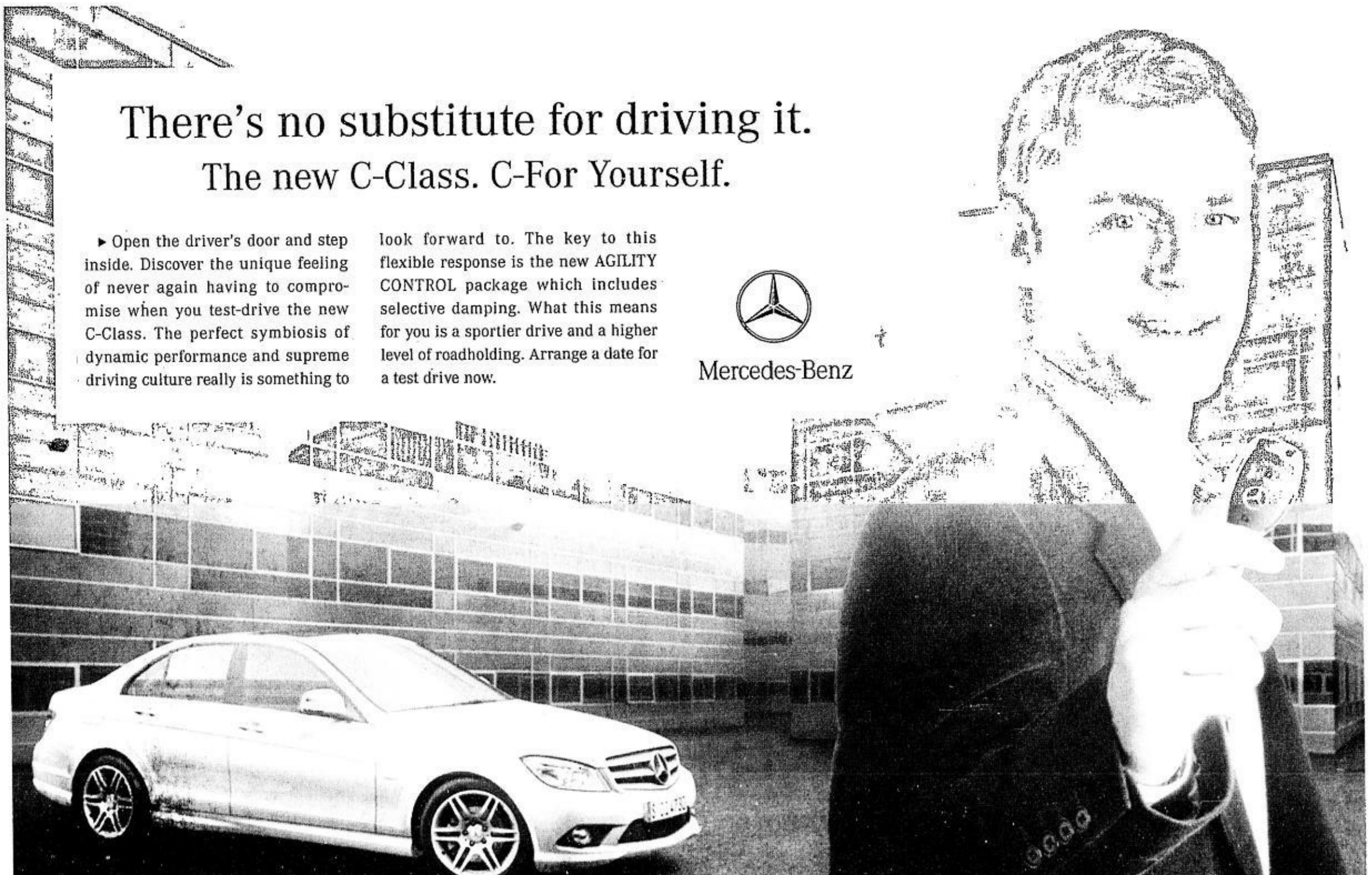

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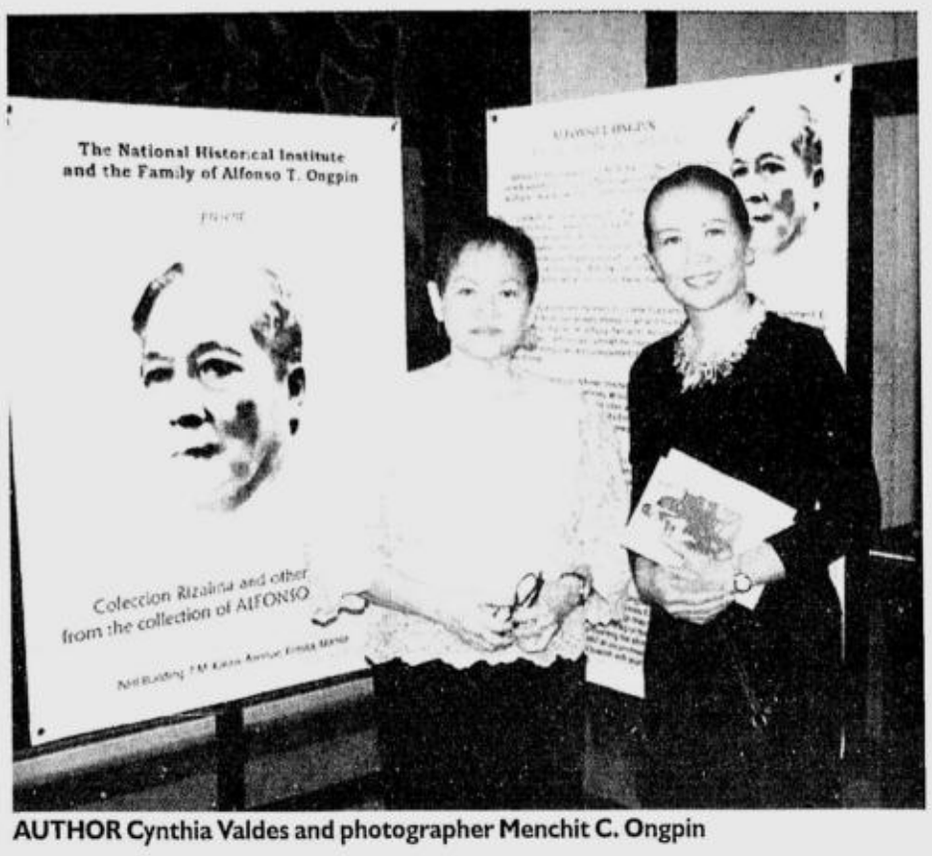
Alfonso T. Ongpin, art collector and Rizalist (1875-1975)

ELAINE O. Herbosa, Cynthia O. Valdes and Triana D. Valdes

Photos by Joven Soriano



AUTHOR Cynthia Valdes and photographer Menchit C. Ongpin

TESSA Prieto Valdes (second from right) and Nathonal Historical Institute docents

NHI chair Ambeth R. Ocampo

The Coleccion Rizalina de Alfonso T. Ongpin and other historical artifacts are on exhibit at the National Historical Institute on Kalaw Street, Manila

ALFONSO T. ONGPIN (THE "T" stood for Tiburcio, his second given name) was born on Aug. 11, 1875. His parents were Roman Ongpin ý Tanbensiang and Pascuala Domingo ý Casas. He was one of 18 children born to the couple. After a long and productive life, Alfonso passed away quietly at his home in Quezon City. He was almost 90 years of age.

In 1912, when Alfonso was 27 years of age, he married his third-degree cousin Esperanza Roa from the landed Roa clan of Cagayan de Oro. As newlyweds, they resided in the family home, the upper floors of Roman Ongpin's establishment, sometimes called Tindahan ng Pintura or Almacen de Pinturas.

Other than general merchandise, carpentry tools, paints and lacquer (a special mix that Roman himself formulated), the store, known as El '82, also carried fine artists' materials imported from Europe.

From early exposure to the artists and intellectuals who frequented El '82, Alfonso developed an early interest in art and books. He also taught himself how to frame and clean artworks. Among his many artist friends were Jorge Pineda, Fabian de la Rosa, Fernando Amorsolo, Emilio Alvero, Gaston O'Farrell, Augusto Fuster and several others. Many of these artists bought their art materials and supplies from El '82. Sometimes, when unable to pay in cash for their *deudas*, they left their paintings behind as collateral. This must have been how Alfonso's collection started. He must have worked out a "deal" with his father, Roman.

Breakaway

After Roman's death, Alfonso broke away from the family enterprise. He used his inheritance to buy more paintings as well as supplies for his store. His siblings Ramon and Constancio continued the family business under a new name, "Hijos de Roman Ongpin."

Like many of the ilustrados ("ilustrar" means to enlighten), educated men and women of the late 19th century, Roman was a staunch nationalist. Propaganda material and other nationalist writings were distributed through El '82. Roman must have been well known to the family of Dr. Jose Rizal and other patriots of his era. Among the books in Alfonso's library is a copy of the "Noli Me Tangere," dedicated to his father, Don Roman Ongpin, by the Rizal family. Alfonso himself must have met and admired a few of the nationalists he encountered through his father's store. Some of them became close friends and associates. One of these was the well-known intellectual Mariano Ponce, another was Isabelo de los Reyes.

In 1925, Gabriel Aranda wrote in an article for the Excelsior about Alfonso Ongpin's dream to establish a gallery. This plan to open a gallery was met with commendation by the artists' community of his time. It would have been the first establishment displaying paintings of local artists in Manila to formally open to the public.

Alfonso was keen on developing art appreciation among his countrymen. In 1927, Alfonso opened his atelier at Avenida Rizal, then a prime business hub in Manila. Other than paintings for sale, Alfonso took pride in framing artworks. He also developed a means of cleaning and restoring paintings.

Good reputation

Although he was never a "wealthy" man, Alfonso Ongpin earned a good reputation among the literati of his time. Vicente R. Alindada, writing for the Independent in 1928 described Alfonso: "heredo de su padre (Roman Ongpin), la bondad del corazon, el espiritu del trabajo, el don de la caballerosidad, nobleza del alma y intenso amor a su patria." From his father Roman, Alfonso inherited a kind heart, a work ethic, a chivalrous spirit as well as deep love of country.

Along with paintings, Alfonso collected numerous books and Filipiniana materials (including journals and newspaper articles; artists' palettes and implements; coins and stamps). He must have used the books and journals as reference materials for the many articles he wrote for local newspapers and the Enciclopedia Universal Ilustrada (also known as the Espasa Calpe). Alfonso Ongpin was the first and (for a time), sole correspondent to this internationally known encyclopedia published in Madrid, Spain from 1906 to the 1930s.

Rizaliana

Alfonso manifested his love of country through his respect and admiration of Rizal. He collected Rizaliana artifacts persistently wooing the family of Dr. Rizal in order to acquire precious mementos which included items of clothing and other personal effects that were used by Dr. Rizal during his lifetime. Although he eventually sold most of his paintings, he kept his Rizaliana materials intact, hoping to bequeath them to his heirs. He wanted very much for his progeny to carry on his legacy of respect and admiration for Dr. Rizal, a great Filipino that he himself revered.

Unfortunately, his children were of a different generation and persuasion, preoccupied with their careers as well as family. His Coleccion Rizalina remained in storage. Upon his death, his heirs, overtaken by difficult times, were forced to sell several more paintings as well as books.

The Coleccion Rizalina of Alfonso T. Ongpin was donated by his heirs: Luis Ongpin ý Roa and his wife Lourdes Velayo Ongpin and Estela Cosin de Ongpin, widow of Guido Ongpin to the National Historical Institute (NHI) through then Director Dr. Serafin Quiason, Mr. Renato Perdon, and Mrs. Emelita Almosara coordinating on behalf of the NHI and Alfonso's eldest granddaughter Cynthia Ongpin Valdes representing the aforementioned heirs of Alfonso T. Ongpin.

Bequeathed to the nation

Thus, by a stroke of fate, Alfonso T. Ongpin managed to bequeath his Coleccion Rizalina to the Filipino nation. The Coleccion Rizalina de Alfonso T. Ongpin and other historical artifacts are on exhibit at 2/F of the NHI Bldg. on T. M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila. The exhibition was ably curated by the staff of the National Historical Institute under the supervision of architect Veronica Dado and her staff, headed by Rommel Aquino.

On this special occasion, with the kind indulgence of the National Historical Institute and its chairperson Prof. Ambeth R. Ocampo, Cynthia Ongpin Valdes and her company Mission View Publishing Co., launched her first publication, entitled "At My Grandfather's Knee." The book is the author's very personal account of the life and times of Alfonso T. Ongpin. As a 12-year old and 1st year high school student, Cynthia lived with her grandparents at 978 R. Hidalgo in the Quiapo district of Manila. Therefore, she ably managed to portray her grandfather, surrounded by loving family from her own store of memories and recollections.

A running commentary of the various periods in which her grandfather, his ancestors and his progeny lived, provides the reader, in simple readable verses with valuable insights. Cynthia manages to bring up close the more known members of the Ongpin clan.

Serafin Quiason, in a three-page review of the book, declared it a valuable contribution to the Philippine cultural record.

Bicol legends on canvas

By Alegria Albano Imperial
Contributor

IF PANCHO PIANO GETS TO REALIZE his dream, no place or ritual would ever die.

As a child, he had always wanted to illustrate stories told to him. But he went on to take up Economics on a scholarship as a drummer and school artist at University of Nueva Caceres. When José Joya spotted his talent in an on-the-spot painting contest at the minor seminary in Naga in 1984, Pancho got on track with studies at University of the Philippines under Joya's watchful eye.

In 1985, a Japanese businessman was struck by Pancho's rendition of "Intramuros—Walled City." He invited him to work and study in Japan for six months.

"I could sit painting for half a century and still I would not reach the bottom of it," he says.

He pauses to scan in his mind the Bicol landscape.

To him, the Mayon Volcano will always be Daragang Magayon, the ill-fated woman said to be of perfect beauty but whose love for Ulap of another tribe caused her death and her lover's from an arrow of a jealous suitor.

On clear mornings, they say Magayon calmly awaits Ulap. By late afternoon, almost on cue with the waning light, clouds creep by wrapping Mayon's graceful tip—Ulap's broad loving arms. Bicolanos then turn away as if embarrassed to watch the lovers embrace. Each eruption to them is Magayon reliving her futile rage for her senseless death.

Pancho has been attempting to retell her tragic tale but only gotten as far as that fatal rendezvous.

Moon goddess

Haliya, moon goddess, is another figure repeatedly appearing in Pancho's paintings. She comes to him more as a spirit—shimmering in evening dew, a soft gracious form tending birds lost in flight or plants with branches upturned, thirsty for her touch. To the Bicolanos, Haliya is their protector from Bakonawa, the evil serpent that takes on a woman's form when Haliya does not rise.

Pancho turns to the legend recounting Kalakog's pursuit of the Princess of Light. The giant, Kalakog, once lived in Albay's Hoyophoyopan caves. Sleepless some nights, he would crawl out of his cave and stroll in the forest. Once, a sweet scent wrapped him. He traced it to a dome of trees deep in the forest so bathed in light. He saw a princess swinging on a vine, and invited her to his kingdom. The princess agreed to walk back with him. With each of her steps the forest lit up and the plants along her path rose as if on their toes.

Kalakog begged for her hand. She warned him not to come near for they were of different worlds. He persisted, driving the princess to run off. In her fright, lightning and thunder followed her. Still with Kalakog in her trail, mountains cracked in half, rocks rolled off and springs burst into raging rivers.

Pancho reveals the Princess of Light has appeared in his dreams, but of this visually powerful legend, he has done only the scene of her meeting Kalakog.

Piano is set to open his solo exhibit today at 6 p.m. in the Chelsen Art Museum in New York. Titled "Luminous Voyage," the exhibit includes not only Bicol legends but also religious paintings of Our Lady of Peñafrancia being carried by the *voyadores*.

INTERNATIONAL artist Pancho Piano with his works for New York

Remember Teachers Camp?

From page E1

maintain whatever is left of its urban, architectural, and environmental traditions for the future.

On the eve of its 2008 centenary, Teachers Camp acknowledges its unique place as one of the principal government educational facilities in the Philippines that has consistently provided teacher training since 1908 in the traditional "Old Baguio" setting so intrinsic to the Teachers Camp image and ambiance.

Since both traditions, education and setting, are so intertwined, it is impossible to look at conserving one without the other.

Teachers Camp authorities are now looking at conserving the physical aspect of Teachers Camp heritage—its architecture, landscaping and infrastructure—while updating the entire facility and its physical plant to achieve 21st-century demands to continue its educational focus and improve its amenities as a rest and recreation facility for educators and students.

HERITAGE Conservation Society, led by its president Gemma Cruz Araneta, traveled with a group of University of the Philippines architecture and history majors to survey and document Teachers Camp.

Heritage, the basis for the new Teachers Camp improvement efforts, is recognized as the primary resource for future income generation to be conserved and enhanced with new infrastructure, architecture and landscaping, to ensure the economic sustainability that will keep Teachers Camp in the lives of the next five generations of educators and students.

Heritage watch

Information received on two walking tours deserves passing on. I would appreciate hearing from those who participated in these events.

"Halina Lusungin Natin ang Malabon," a guided visit to Malabon, happens Oct. 13, Saturday. The event begins with a 10 a.m. brunch at Pescadores Restaurant at Letre Road and Dagat-dagatan Avenue. The heritage tour proceeds to San Bartolome Church, does rounds of heritage houses, including the 1861 Raymundo House, said to be the oldest in Malabon.

Taste typical Malabon delicacies, visit the Rufina Patis factory, and end the tour with an afternoon launch of the new Bahay Parokyano art gallery. For more information, contact richardtsb@gmail.com or 0917-8736083, 0917-8921801, 0920-8796459, 0917-8191934.

The Filipinas Stamp Collectors Club offers a free walking tour on postal history every third Sunday of the month, the next being on Oct. 21. The afternoon tour starts 1 p.m. with a walk through the Liwasang Bonifacio area and nearby points of importance in Philippine postal history like Puerta Isabel (Intramuros), and leads to the Manila Central Post Office, ending with a rare chance to observe the club's meeting and auction.

The auction, I am told, is the highlight of the day. Call 0919-3901671 or e-mail your requests for information or bookings to L_rence_2003@yahoo.com. Visit www.youthtrip.org.

Please send feedback to pride.place@gmail.com

VISUAL ARTS

Villaruel at West

West Gallery (4/L, Bldg. A) presents Alvin Villaruel's "Low Pressure Islands" Oct. 11-23. Villaruel based his printings on photographed and published images of world-changing events like war and major hurricanes, cloud formations, and hints of a country at war. He says this is not the first time he has used war photography as a reference, using them before to shape his abstract works. Call 6341284.

"GREAT Expectation," by Alvin Villaruel

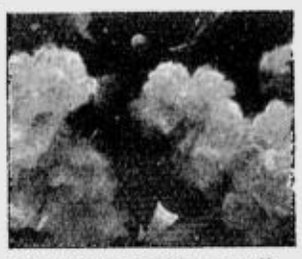
Liongoren at West

Alfredo Liongoren presents "Liongoren 1997/2007" until Oct. 9 at West Gallery, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Liongoren features his latest collection of abstract paintings reminiscent of his works in the 1960s. This new series offers viewers another glimpse into Liongoren's rich caché of ideas. This time, he uses less color but highlights them in both scale and texture. Using rustic tones and silhouettes, the pieces lend a certain amount of timelessness and spontaneity into the composition. Call 6341284.

"BANSALAN," by Alfredo Liongoren

SyCip at Ricco Renzo

Alan SyCip reveals yet another piece of his creative repertoire in his latest show "Cosmic Tribes," which opens Oct. 11 at Ricco Renzo Galleries and Caffé on Reposo, Makati. The exhibit features 25 of his latest works combining abstract imagery with dreamlike landscapes. The exhibit runs until Nov. 11. Call 8982542-43, e-mail art@riccorenzo.com, or visit www.riccorenzo.com.



"THE GREAT Harvest," by Alan SyCip

RM de Leon prints

Ramon Manuel "RM" de Leon recreates five paintings from his popular '80s works into prints. These are from the "La Tasca" and "Manila-Berlin" series. The prints are produced by Quadro Frames and are available at Our Home section of SM.

Posadas at La Fuerza

"Romp," consisting of oil pastel and acrylic "frolics" by Jill Arwen Posadas, runs until Oct. 22 at OWG Creative Center, 2241 La Fuerza Plaza II, Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. Call 8192074.

Weldon at Silverlens

Photographer Denise Weldon presents "Everydaylight" Oct. 11-Nov. 10 at Silverlens Gallery, 2320 Pasong Tamo Ext., Warehouse 2, Yupangco Bldg., Makati City. As part of the Saturday gallery events, Weldon will give an Artist Talk Oct. 20, 1-3 p.m. Call 8160044.

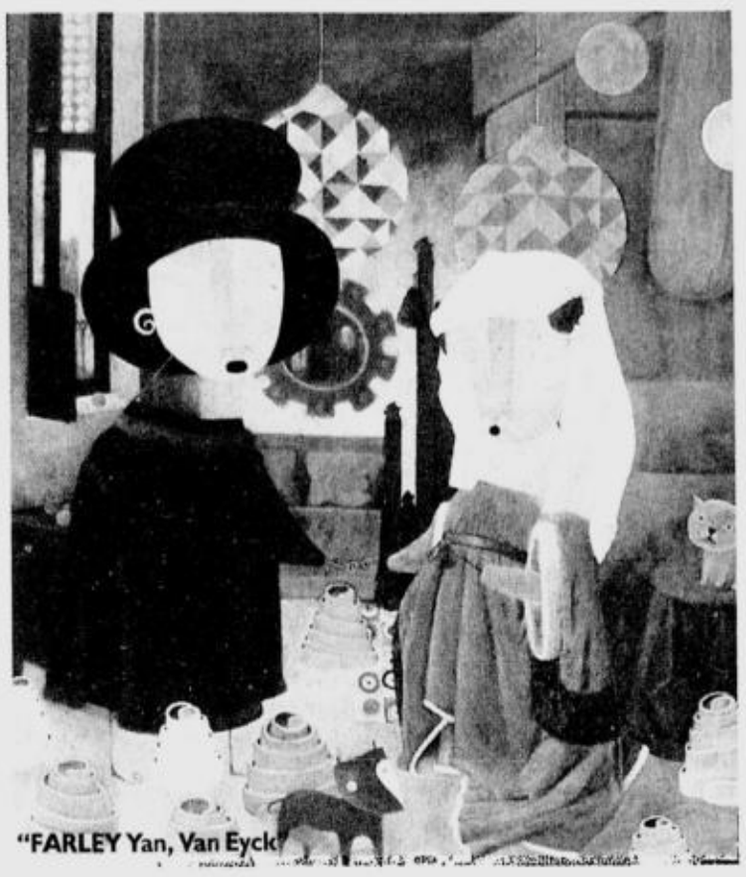
Higgins at Ayala

Ayala Museum presents "Hybridity: Mark Lewis Higgins," until Oct. 28 at G/F Gallery, Ayala Museum. The exhibit features works that juxtapose painted and collage images from history, religion, geography and archaeology. Call 7577117-21 loc. 28 or 0917-8594237.

Estrada at the SSS

Tito Estrada will turn over his acrylic painting "Symphony at Sea" to the Social Security System (SSS) at East Avenue, QC, Oct. 10, 4:30 p.m. Estrada will also open his latest exhibit, which will run until Nov. 5 at the SSS Main Lobby. Guests of honor are QC Mayor Sonny Belmonte, Julie Defensor, Leslie Albano and Dr. Ed Poblete of St. Luke's Hospital.

Farley Del Rosario reinvents iconic artworks playfully



"FARLEY Yan, Van Eyck"

FARLEY DEL ROSARIO'S SENSE OF humor and wonder once again take centerstage in "Impostor in Poster," his latest exhibit at Choice Expression Gallery, 2/F, Doña Consolacion Bldg., 122 Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati.

The collection expresses Del Rosario's admiration for revered artists as he presents playful versions of their works—pieces so popular they have been honored time and again through replication or partial alteration.

This body of works, however, differs from other tributary renditions in that they feature Del Rosario's distinct yet familiar round-eyed urchins, with curled lines as arms and legs. His stamp of circular patterns replace whorls of clouds; instead of buildings are his quaint houses on legs of sticks; and his beloved cats and dogs make cameo appearances.

Viewers are sure to be refreshed and amused by Del Rosario's take on Da Vinci's "The Last Supper," Munch's "Scream," Van Gogh's "Starry Night," and several more surprising depictions. The exhibit opens Oct. 8, 6 p.m. Call 8990718.

"FARLEY Mona Rocks!"

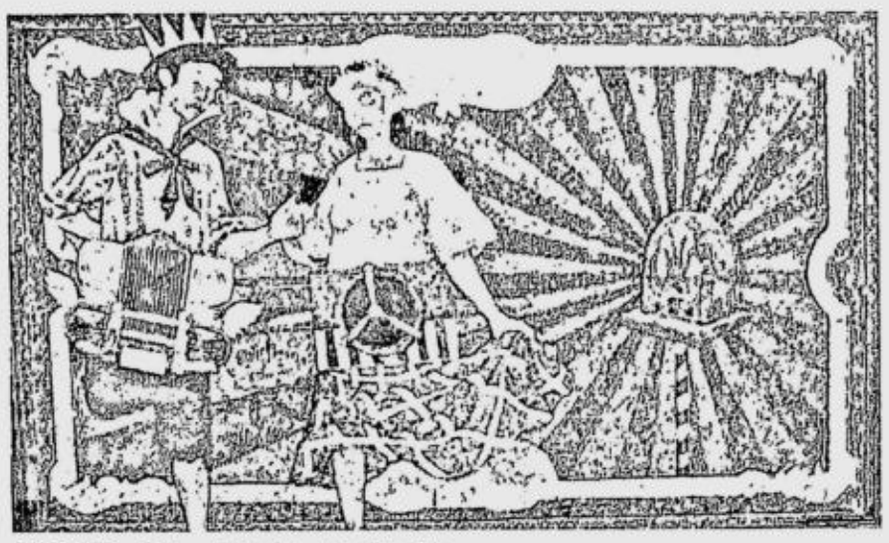
To bode the ill is to 'Bodabil'

By Angelo V. Suárez
Contributor

TO BODE THE ILL BUT ONLY in retrospect, to vaudeville but sans parodic effect. Or shall we say to *bodabil* and aspire to parody, but minus a full-bodied parodic aspect? Pastiche after all is parody that has lost its sense of humor, according to theorist Fredric Jameson, an unconscious preoccupation of the postmodern mind-set: nostalgic for a past that remains uncertain, if not altogether nonexistent.

But is it not precisely a historical clarity the group Sangviaje seeks in their latest show "Bodabil" (showing at Glorietta Art Space)?

Yet still it is an ironic kind of clarity: one that makes clear everything in history is unclear, that all historicizing and perceiving are mediated. Furthermore, a clarity that takes up an imagined space—a social imaginary—such that it has to be traveled to, or in more devious cases even escaped from. And this is another manifestation of the artistic collective's sense of irony, for in their use of the name "Sangviaje" (literally "one journey") they are really referring to the multiplicity of expeditions in a single voyage, a singular physical trip as the mind trips on a host of cultural hallucinations—namely those painted for us by Jaypee Samson, Edrich Daniel, Dennis Fortoso, Guerrero Habulan, John Paul Antido, and Joven Mansit in this vigorous and youthful six-man show organized by Britania Art Projects in cooperation with Art Exchange.



"SAYAW sa Bubog," by John Paul Antido

Speculation and spectacle

Samson's "Pasang-awa" features a student in his toga with his mother amid the backdrop of a collapsed school. One wonders if what barely passed (as the title suggests) was the student or the pitiful educational institution—whether it was the former who conquered the latter, or the latter that conquered, well, conquered what exactly?

Of course, it ought to be a larger structure—with a more complex machinery—as in the privileged, self-reflexive meta-position of Derrida's so-called "structurality of structure," which, more than simply interrogating the process that goes into perceiving an object, also goes into interrogating the very process of interrogating perception, ad nauseam.

The same disastrous backdrop also steals the scene from Samson's "Unang Araw sa Iskul Bukol," where a child in school uniform looks rather sullen in the foreground, perhaps in anticipation of the kind of mangled education he's about to receive. But more than the actual images, what really catches attention in both paintings is their treatment—the images distorted as if filtered by a bent glass or plastic surface, as if viewed with convex spectacles. School has become one of the major sites of the grand Pinoy *bodabil*, and it takes a perceptive eye as Samson's to depict how this site is mediated by sight—by subjective perspectives—such as his own.

And the spectacle of the school suddenly borders on the spectacular—if not the downright eerie—thanks to Mansit's arresting series "Class Picture 1914," a set of three paintings that look mysteriously like class pictures dating back to the American Occupation, which is possibly one of the larger historical structures being interrogated. In each, a teacher-like lady figure sits haloed in the middle, as if venerated by the flock of monstrous students behind her. A box with a big mouth or a huge nose or brain for a head, some literally with their heads in the clouds or inside closets, some with a decapitated ready-to-cook chicken for a torso—the anatomy of this "student body" matches the political grotesquerie of the Occupation itself. The historical contradiction—in terms and linguistic monstrosity of "benevolent assimilation"—is brought to the fore, and Mansit's stylishly horrifying visual juxtapositions are ideal in evoking the equally appalling (though not chic at all) verbal and ideological juxtaposition mentioned earlier, brought into common tongue by the American colonizers. A startling oxymoron partnered with startling visual hybrids.

"HUKOM," by Edrich Daniel

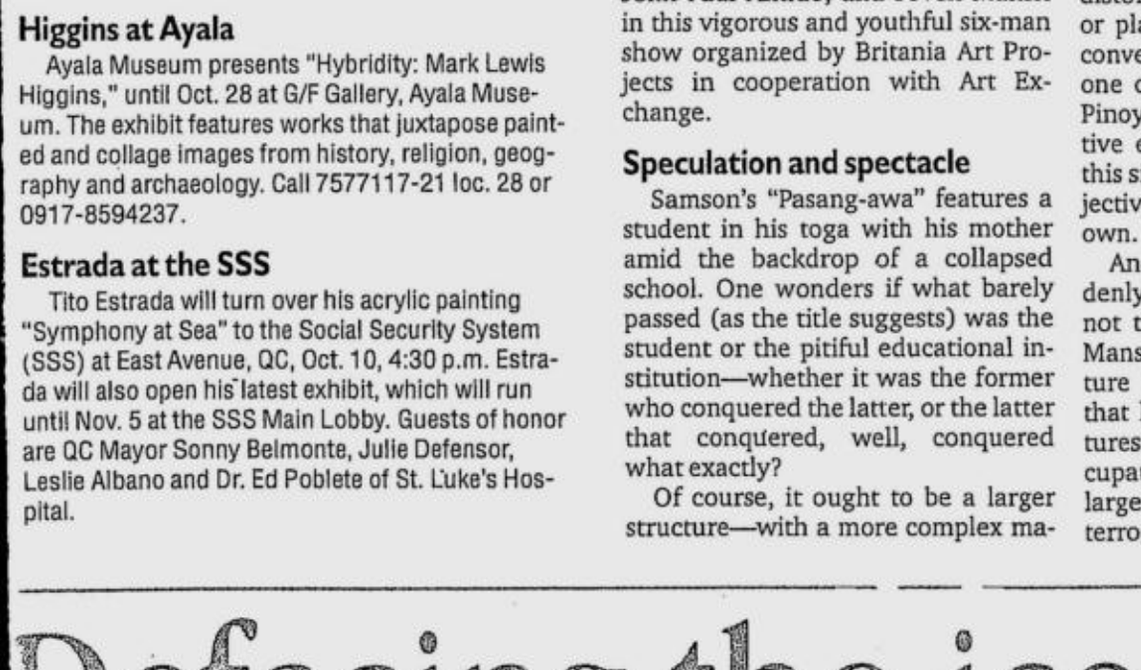
Travails of travel

But what journey led to this acceptance of assimilation anyway, what process bore the fruit of willing colonization? Habulan ironically takes this interrogative route by depicting the symbol of the literal fruit. In the painting "Kakagat Ka Ba," a confused Filipino man with a goat is surrounded by Caucasians, being handed the seemingly generous offer of what will eventually become the notorious apple of our current 'A'-is-for-'Apple' culture—in spite of the fact that no apple is endemic to our tropical landscape. This seduction is also evocative of the Biblical tale of Eve's seduction by the serpent, only in this case the serpent is America's vast and devious imperial project and Eve has brown skin and an ashen mustache. And we are made to travel from this imaginary landscape to the manically bustling mindscape, where Filipinos are imagined to be entertaining monkeys by the colonizers who hand them bananas in the painting "Komedya." Here, the Occupation did more than just bring the French tradition of the vaudeville to our shores by means of their slapstick comedies: They made us their own source of entertainment, and Habulan in turn tries to nobly strike back by making them the object of his personal *bodabil*.

Our path to virtually embracing the Empire was of course not presented to be as dark as it really was, and the colorful hues of false benevolence are approximated by the vivid textures of Antido's work. Whether it's a nauseating postcolonial discourse that sees no end (is there anything "post" about "colonialism" in current times?) in his painting "Usapang Walang Patutunguhan" or a depiction of the average Filipino's longing to achieve success and the illusion of the "American dream" on Western soil despite the sharp dangers of distance in "Sayaw

TO BODE/ E4

Defacing the icons



CATWALK"

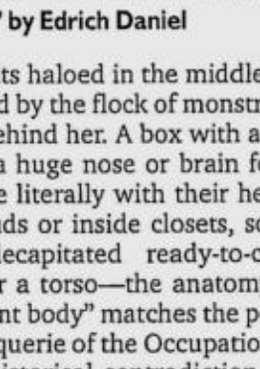
By Constantino C. Tejero

VINCENT PADILLA WOULD SEEM LIKE AN artist apart. This is once again confirmed by his latest exhibit "Iconized," pieces in oil on canvas, in 1/of Gallery, 2/F, Serendra, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

It's a familiar theme, especially among the young. But here, in his third show this year, Padilla's treatment of iconography appears in stark contrast to RM de Leon's postmodernist tweaking of icons.

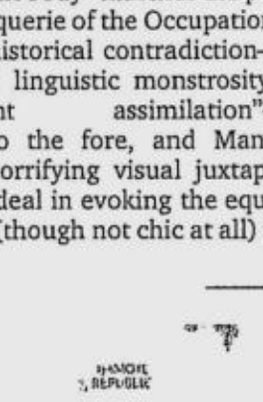
The starkness of the contrast can be further apprehended if the viewer compares this show to two other painting exhibits ongoing elsewhere in the metropolis: José Ibay's collaborative commemoration of rock legends in "Rocked Age," until Oct. 26 at Metropolitan Museum of Manila; and Mark Lewis Higgins' bejeweled iconography in "Diaspora," until Oct. 28 at Ayala Museum in Makati City.

While De Leon reproduces old images with the familiar features intact, and Ibay and Higgins promote the exaltation of icon through expressively enhancing or heavily adorning the human features, Padilla totally defaces it.



"ICON" XIV

"ICON" II



All human figures in this show have their faces boxed, that is, covered with shopping bags. Padilla's signature metaphorizing of the box is his way of representing "our limitations to move and to think."

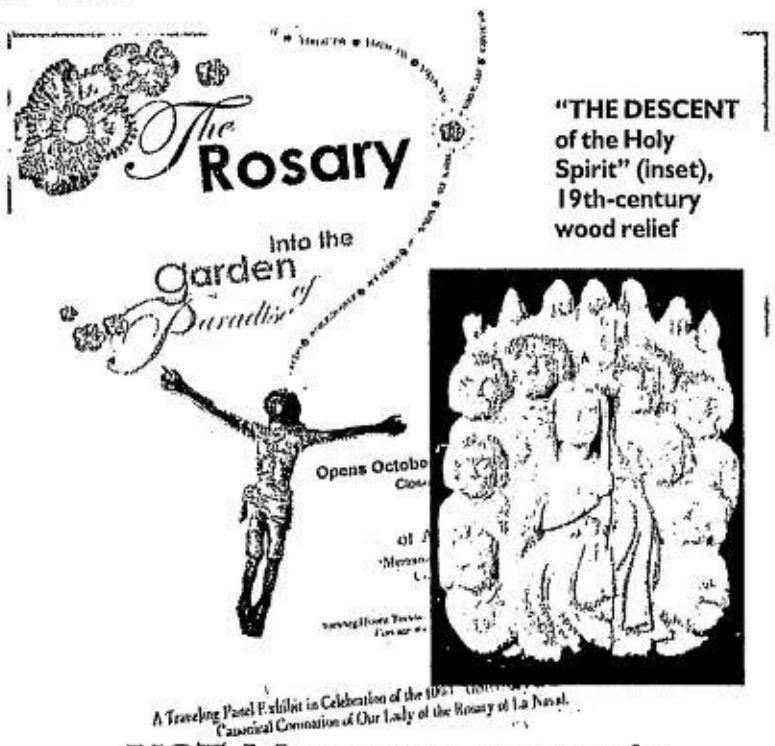
A series of individual portraits appears like a fashion catalogue with models selling their ware headlessly (literally so). The familiar logos on the shopping bags now read: *Parada, Blurry, Kamote Republic*. Versace's gorgoneion has become a mustachioed gentlemen (à la Duchamp's Mona Lisa), and the Nike swoosh is now a smiley.

"The world now is full of different symbols—images, signs, trademarks, logos—which are being treated like icons," says Padilla. "These have underlying meanings, particularly those used by the powerful and influential political, commercial and media organizations.

"As an artist, I would like to share the way I look at and digest these symbols by altering and distorting some parts of the various logos. The given hierarchy, popular meanings and iconic status of these symbols should be replaced by unaltered curiosity to signs and images."

A bigger piece, "Catwalk," would have been a normal day on the sidewalk were it not for the patent absurdity of seeing a street scene of people casually walking by

DEFACING/ E4



"THE DESCENT of the Holy Spirit" (inset), 19th-century wood relief

UST Museum mounts Rosary traveling exhibit

IN CELEBRATION OF THE centennial of the canonical coronation of our Lady of the Holy Rosary of La Naval, the UST Museum of Arts and Sciences has prepared a traveling exhibit, "The Rosary—Into the Garden of Paradise."

For centuries, the Rosary has become an unparalleled symbol of Marian devotion. It has kept people closer to God and has served as a source of inspiration, comfort and countless graces.

The traveling concept was conceived to promote the rosary devotion, especially among the youth. The exhibit will feature illustrations of the 20 mysteries with photographic representations of Philippine art, mostly from the UST Museum collection, and Gospel reflections to aid the guests in contemplating each mystery.

The exhibit will also feature photographs from churches in Tanay (Rizal), Silang (Cavite), Calumpit (Bulacan), Santo Domingo (Quezon City), and Caleruega Retreat Center (Nasugbu, Batangas), as well as Museo ng Archdiocesis ng Manila.

The panels representing the mysteries enclose the guest in a stylized printed garden. This recalls the *hortus conclusus*, the closed garden, allusive of the Blessed Mother and also of the Garden of Paradise.

As in the manner of early Renaissance tapestries, the exhibit's "garden" will be adorned with symbolic and healing flora—with a Philippine touch.

"The Rosary—Into the Garden of Paradise," curated by Regalado Trota José, will run until Oct. 31. Viewing hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The UST Museum of Arts and Sciences is located at the Mezzanine of the Main Building of the University of Santo Tomas, España, Manila. Call 7811815 or 4061611 loc. 8337 or 8268.

7 for first anniversary

MARKING ITS FIRST ANNIversary, 1/of Gallery mounts a showcase of pieces by seven noted artists—Plet Bolipata, Elmer Borlongan, Michael Cacnio, Buen Calubayan, Salvador Convocar, Farley Del Rosario and Alvin Villaruel. Bolipata once more displays her multimedia savvy through her digital collage. Borlongan stays true to his enigmatic yet magnetic baldheaded characters.

Cacnio departs from the wiry, Giacometti-like figures he has become known for, going rotund but nonetheless focusing on playful subjects. Convocar, too, embellishes corpulent bodies of musicians with his ethnic patterns. Del Rosario delights with his signature urchins gamboling on a piece of furniture, while Calubayan and Villaruel deftly depict specter-like men amid mottled haze or against fiery backdrop.

"WIND and String Duo," by Salvador Convocar

"BOY Ahas," by Elmer Borlongan

"NICOTINE," by Buen Calubayan

The eclectic mix speaks of the gallery's wide range of featured talents. 1/of Gallery's First Anniversary Exhibit shall be launched with cocktails Oct. 11, 7 p.m. The gallery is located at 2/F, Shops at Serendra, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Call 9013152.

"BONJOUR, Monsieur Manet," by Plet Bolipata

Defacing the icons

From page E3

or smartly posing like so many headless chickens.

The figures are hyperrealistically rendered in flat commercial colors, chiefly primary and secondary, but there's sharper color contrast and bolder hues bordering on the neon here than in Padilla's previous works. This heightens the surreal quality of the composition.

"A direct experience of dichotomy happens when a certain image and its primary purpose would be altered by an idea unrelated to the symbol," says the artist. "In semiotics, one can see a certain sign objectively, and the image itself, its aesthetics and primary design, is uncompromised."

In contrast to his previous exhibits, this one stands as a scathing critique of the social order, specifically consumerism. Here the artist has clearly grown embittered, and we can't blame him as we live in interesting times.

Such an art necessarily displays what Baudelaire calls "the heresy of didacticism." But Padilla's image-making has that innate playfulness that amid the bitter air we see smileys all around.

To bode the ill is to 'Bodabil'

From page E3

sa Bubog," Antido's portraits are at once refreshing to both the audience's mind and eye.

In spite of the subdued hues, Fortoso's work is no less colorful—though more in terms of invisible process than visible shades. And for full effect, suggesting that the manipulation that goes on in every imperial process is as indeterminable as his own digital work, as interminable as the escape of electronic imagery into the world of paint and paint into the world of the computer. Here, Fortoso's work is the work-process itself, not so much the work-product, implying that colonization is still going on.

Daniel's contribution to the show might be the most devious of all, appearing with a childlike quality that makes it attractive as eye candy—a neat parallelism with benevolent assimilation itself: The symbols embedded in the tarot-inspired "Hukom" and "Ang Tore" are as conceptually dark as the political implications and actions of the Empire, though both are dressed in the wildly colorful garb of paint and capitalist democracy. And his very use of the motif of tarot cards—a mystical device used in fortune-telling and predicting the future—takes us back full circle, as in a kind of completion of this jaunt: To bode the ill is to vaudeville, and eventually to *bodabil*.

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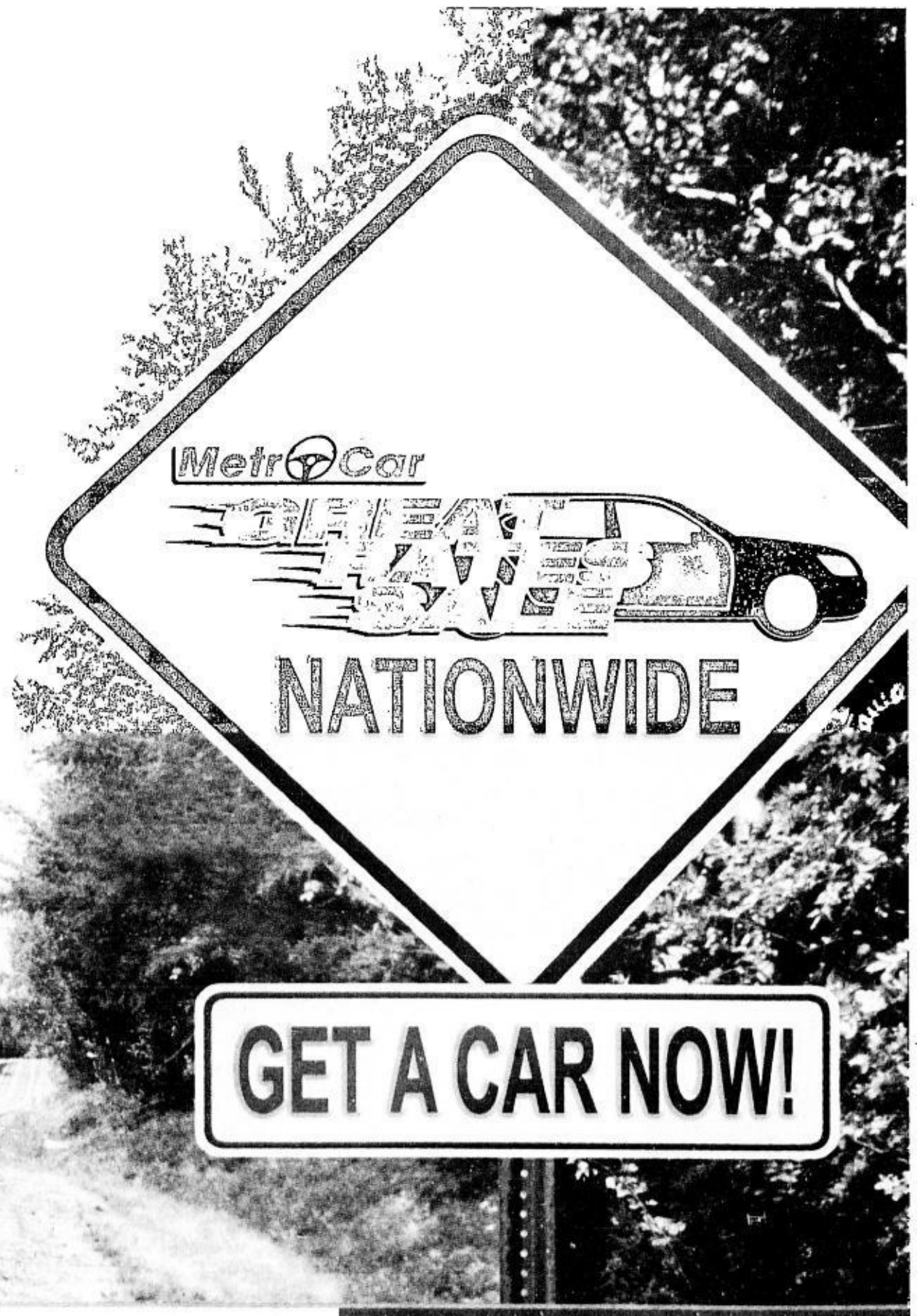

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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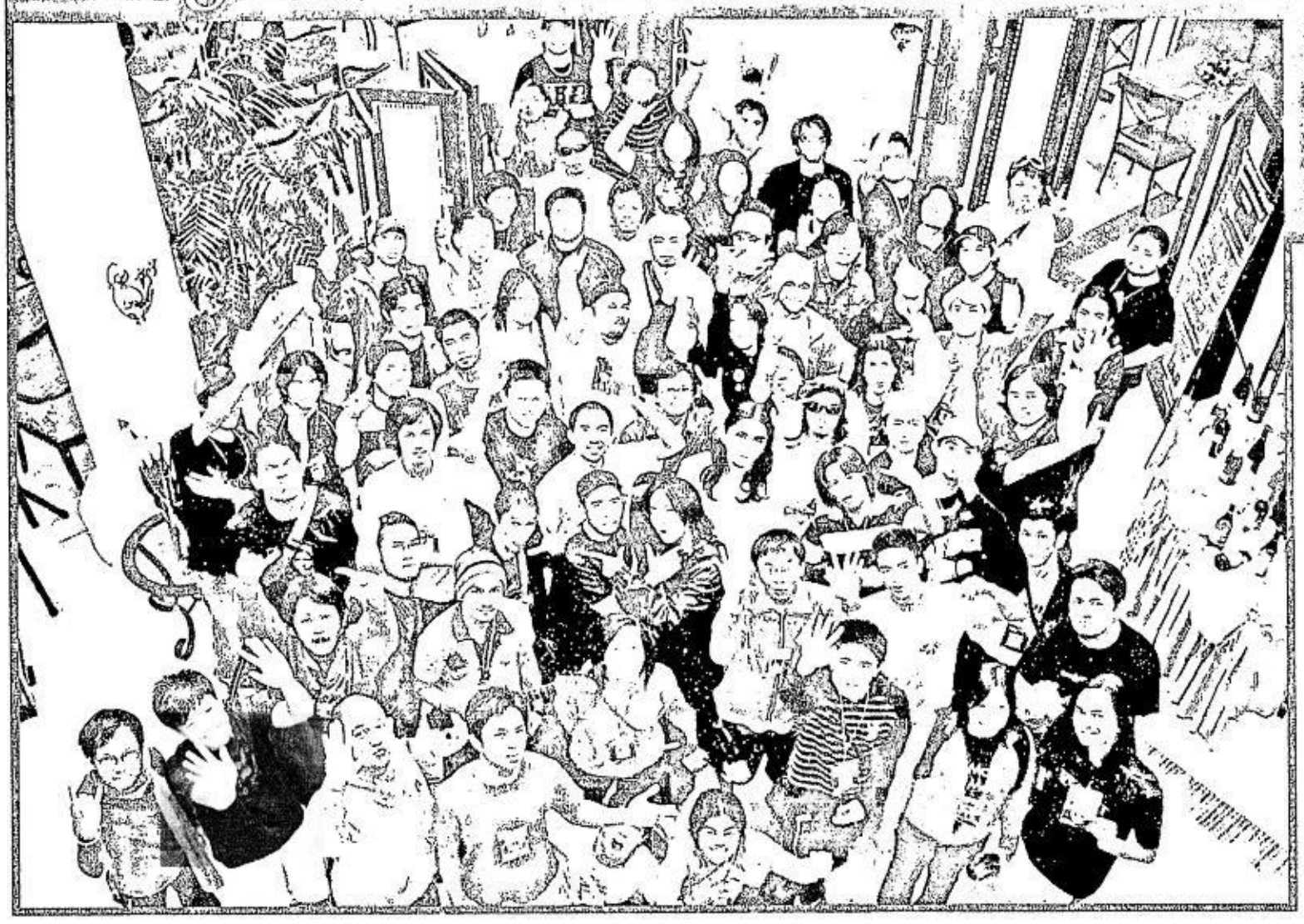
ENTERTAINMENT

INSIDE

■ Is the action film genre dead?
Viewfinder /G4

All together now... a-one, two, three...



SEVENTY-FIVE AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL musicians were chosen from over 400 hopefuls to participate in Musikhero, a three-day music camp held recently in Baguio City. The camp consisted of classes and workshops on music theory and practice. Mentors included members of some of the country's most popular bands like The Dawn and Rivermaya, sought-after session players such as Jun Regalado and Rommel de la Cruz, as well as respected Pinoy rock figures Joey "Pepe" Smith, Jun Lopito and Chickoy Pura. Story on Page G6

WHAT'S ON

Let Mr. Dreamboy win your hearts as he promotes his much-awaited new album.

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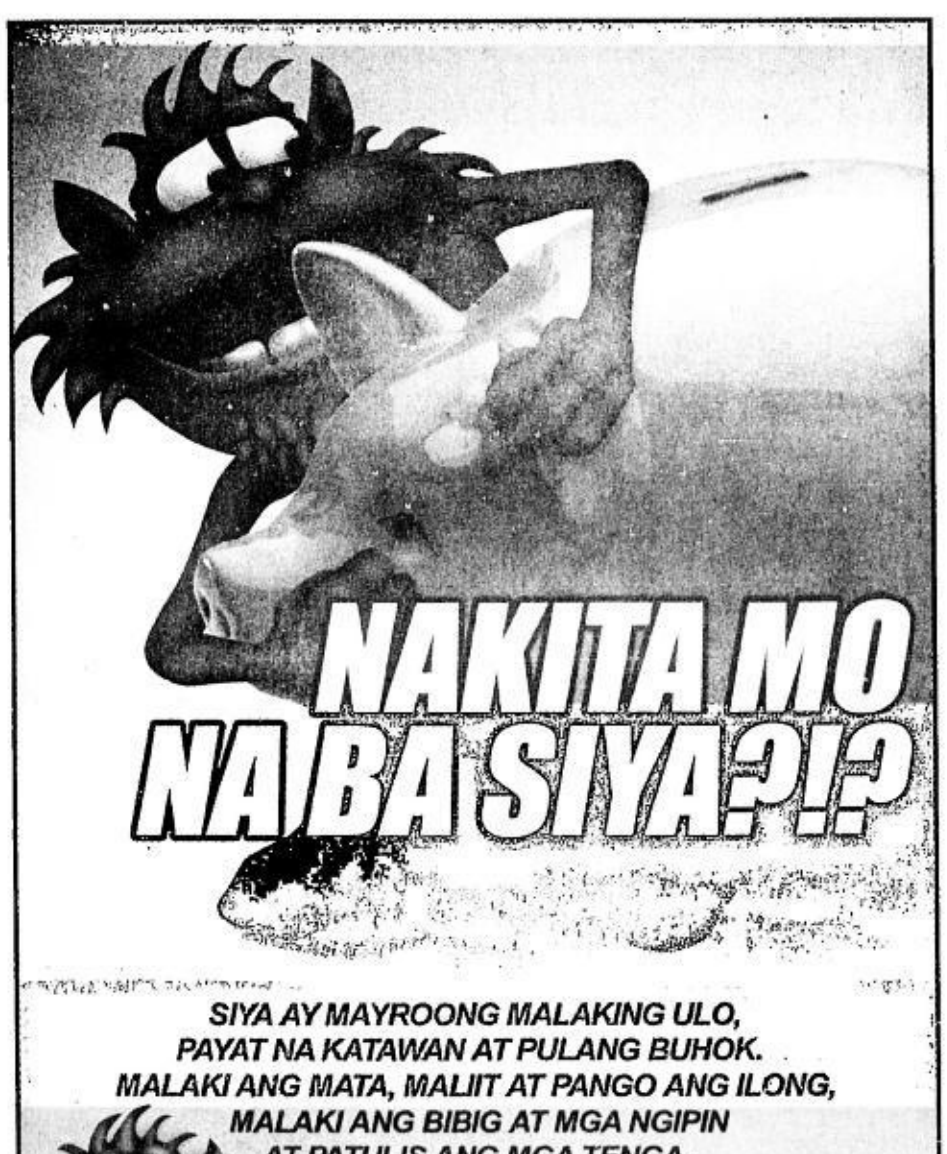
WHAMMY AT LARGE!!!



MAG-INGAT SA BAGONG KILABOT NG KUWARTA!!!
KUNG AKALA MO AY NAPAKA-SUWERTE NA NG ARAW MO,
TALASAN ANG PAKIRAMDAM AT
BAKA MAY MALAS NA NAKAABANG!

Laganap ngayon sa buong kapuluan ang isang kakaibang nilalang na diumano'y nambibiktima sa mga taong may salapi. Ito ay kilala lamang sa mga misteryosong katagang WHAMMY. Ang kakaibang nilalang na ito, o ang WHAMMY, ay may kakaibang anyo. Ito ay punggok, pula ang buhok, at ubod nang kulit. Kakaiba rin ang modus operandi nito. Hindi basta-bastang taong may pera ang ninanakawan nito, kundi mga nilalang na sunud-sunod, tuluy-tuloy at talagang nakakaloka ang pagdami ng pera sa pinakabagong gameshow ng GMA: ang WHAMMY! PUSH YOUR LUCK!

Kasalukuyang naghahanap ang mga awtoridad ng Kapuso Network ng mga magigiting at matitibay na mga nilalang na maglalakas-loob harapin at sugpuin ang mga nagkalat na WHAMMY. Kailangan lamang ay mabilis ang kamay at utak, matindi ang suwerte, at may interes na manalo ng napakalaking halaga. Ang tanging sandata sa pag-ilag at pagsugpo sa WHAMMY: isang malaki at pulang push-button. Ang magiging kakampi at gabay: ang intelihente at suwabeng si Paolo Bediones, at ang kikay at seksing Rufa Mae Quinto. May malaking mga pabuya ang naghihintay sa mga susubok ng kanilang suwerte laban sa WHAMMY.

Magsisimula na ang pagsugpo sa WHAMMY ngayong hapon. Kung nais mong sumapi sa pagsugpo ng WHAMMY, ipagbigay-alam sa pamamagitan ng text mo! PLAY <Name/Age/Gender/Address> 4627 for Globe, Sun and TM 367 for Sun and Talk n' Text

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WEDDING DAZE R13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	NO RESERVATIONS G 2:20,4:40,7:00,9:20	KNOCKED UP R18 12:00,2:30,5:10, 7:50,10:30
EVENING PG13 1:45,4:15,6:45,9:15	DECEMBER BOYS PG13 3:05,5:30,7:55,10:20	RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION R13 1:50,4:00

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Ang Lee admits he is socially 'awkward'

HONG KONG—OSCAR-WINning director Ang Lee has tackled English period drama, kung fu and gay cowboy romance. But don't expect him to make small talk at a dinner party.

On the CNN program "Talk Asia," which aired Saturday, the Taiwanese native said that, despite his celebrity, he still struggles with social interaction.

"When I'm off the set, it's hard for me to carry a conversation. That's more difficult for me than making a movie. One way or another I manage to roll the camera. But off the set, at the dining table ... it's still awkward for me." *AP*

DID YOU KNOW...

ANG Lee
REUTERS

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October 08 & 09, 2007	"Alamat"... Stageplay	1:00 & 5:30 PM
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TEATRINO

Oct. 10, 17 24 & 31	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM
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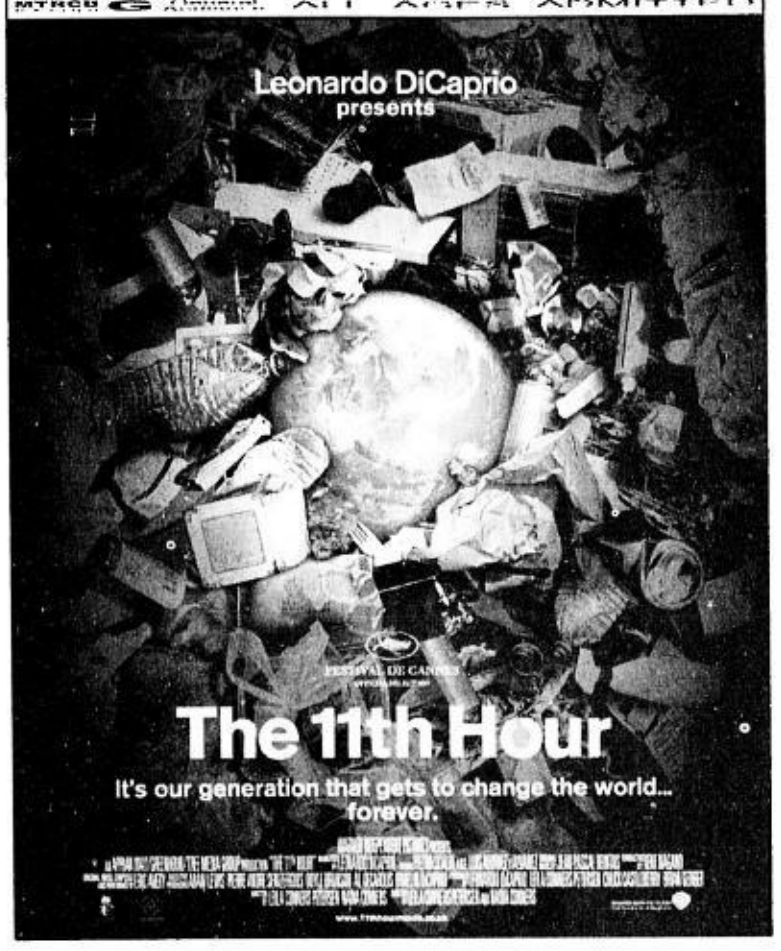
Leonardo DiCaprio presents


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1	WEDDING DAZE 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30 R-13	
2	DECEMBER BOYS 3:50, 6:15, 8:40, 11:00 PG-13	
3	RESIDENT EVIL 3 3:50, 6:15, 8:40, 11:00 R-13	
4	EVENING 3:10, 5:50 R-13	KNOCKED UP 8:25, 11:10 PG-13

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GLORIETTA 4	1 NO RESERVATIONS	2 EVENING	3 THX WEDDING DAZE GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 KNOCKED UP	5 DECEMBER BOYS	6 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	7 HARSH TIMES
GREENBELT 1	1 DECEMBER BOYS		2 WEDDING DAZE	
GREENBELT 3	1 THX RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 KNOCKED UP GUARANTEED SEATS	4 DECEMBER BOYS GUARANTEED SEATS	5 HARSH TIMES GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX KNOCKED UP		2 NO RESERVATIONS	
	3 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	4 DECEMBER BOYS	5 NO RESERVATIONS	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	2 DAYWATCH	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4 SINKING OF JAPAN
MARKET! MARKET!	1 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION		2 KNOCKED UP	
	3 DECEMBER BOYS	4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	
TRINOMA	1 KNOCKED UP	2 EVENING	3 I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY GUARANTEED SEATS	4 DECEMBER BOYS GUARANTEED SEATS
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October 17; 6 PM; Activity Center

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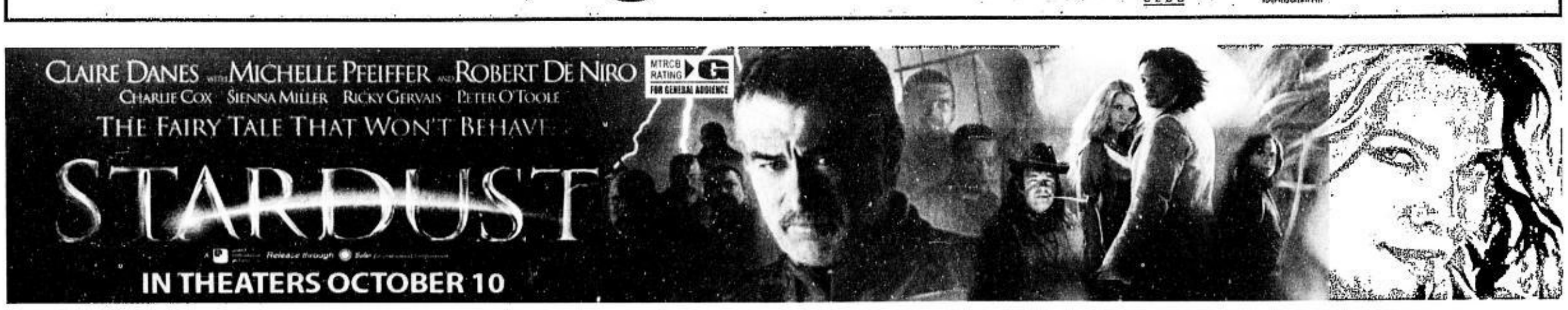

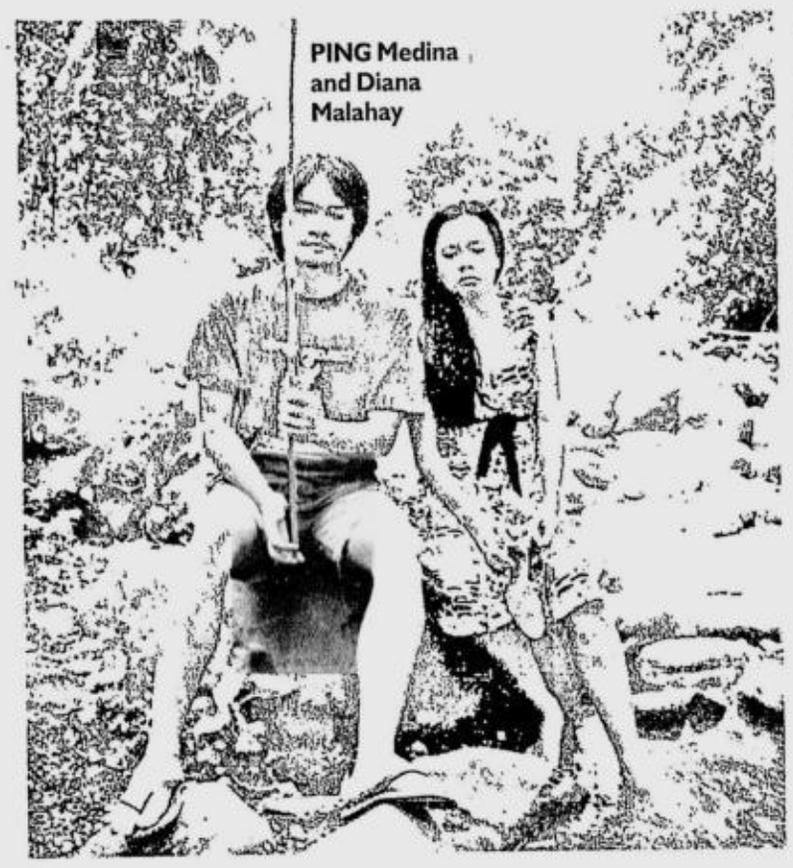

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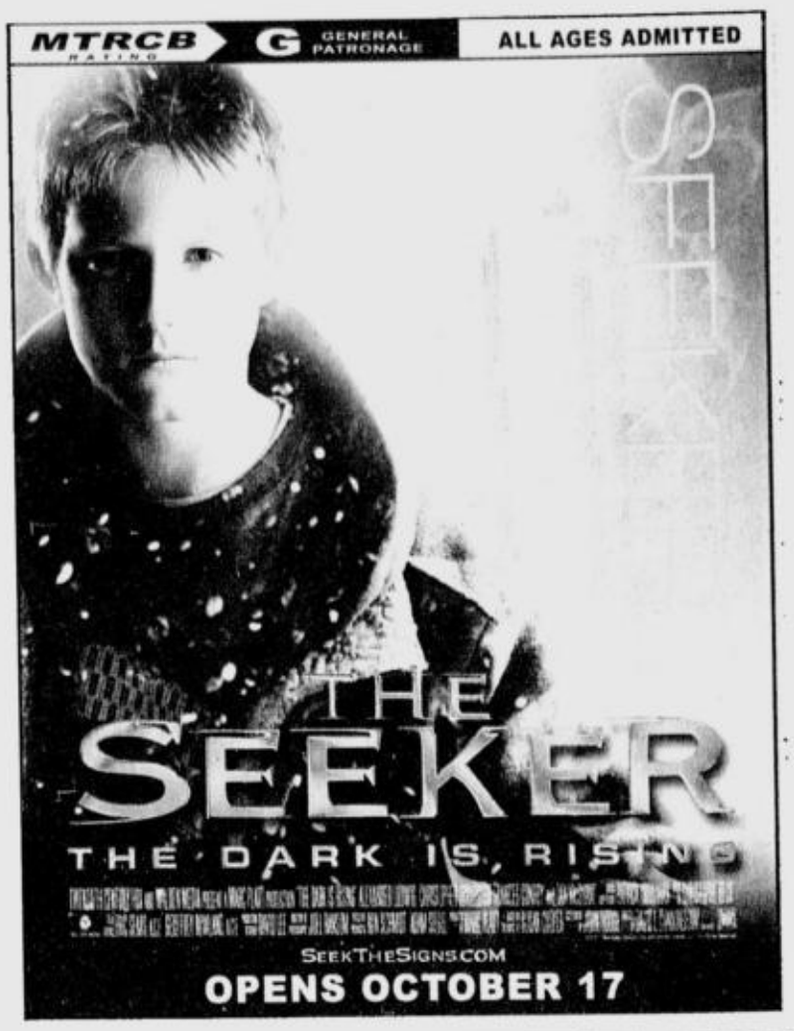


Board gives 'Tukso' a 'B'

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD has given Dennis Marasigan's whodunit film "Tukso" a 'B' rating for a screenplay that "keeps the audience guessing," according to Christine Dayrit, CEB chair.

"Tukso," which debuted at this year's Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival, is about the death of a village lass and its effect on those who know her. The story is told from the different perspectives of these people as told to a detective investigating the case.

"I love the film. For me, it deserved an 'A'," Dayrit told INQUIRER Entertainment on Friday.

An 'A' entitles movie to a 100 percent tax rebate; a B, 65 percent.

"The Board said it is a masterfully engaging film that presents a wonderful juxtaposition of interesting vignettes," the CEB chief said.

Technical flaw

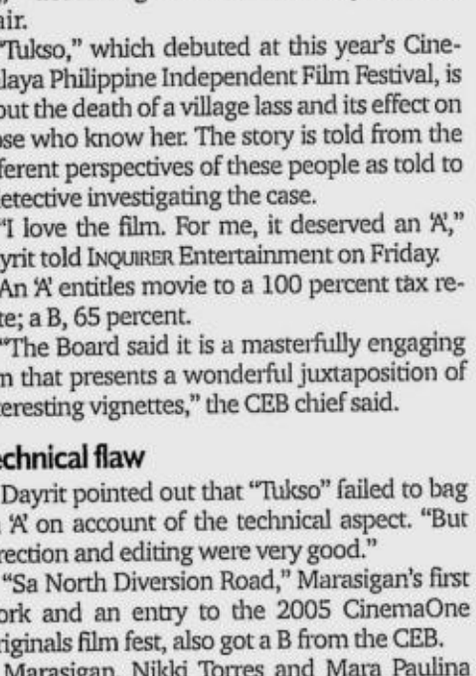
Dayrit pointed out that "Tukso" failed to bag an 'A' on account of the technical aspect. "But direction and editing were very good."

"Sa North Diversion Road," Marasigan's first work and an entry to the 2005 CinemaOne Originals film fest, also got a B from the CEB.

Marasigan, Nikki Torres and Mara Paulina Marasigan won the Cinemalaya Best Screenplay award for their work on "Tukso." A Cinemalaya screening committee member described it as a "revisionist 'Rashomon'," referring to Akira Kurosawa's classic film.

"The different point-of-views ala 'Rashomon' showed that in life, one's perception of what happened is shaped partly by one's motive and partly by the environment," said Dayrit, quoting a critic.

In the cast are award-winning actors Ricky Davao and Irma Adlawan; Soliman Cruz, Shamaine Buencamino, Ping Medina, Sid Lucero, Nonie Buencamino, Ronnie Lazaro and Bing Pimentel.



Cate as Dylan—will fans get it?

NEW YORK—A NEW MOVIE ABOUT Bob Dylan is the first dramatic portrayal of his life and music that the reclusive performer has approved, but Oscar-winning actress Cate Blanchett says fans may struggle to understand it.

After all, she plays one of six Bob Dylans—the others are Richard Gere, Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Ben Whislaw, and young black actor Marcus Carl Franklin in his movie debut.

"It doesn't make sense [as] a nonconventional narrative. It [does] but in a dreamlike musical way," the Australian actress said of "I'm Not There" in an interview at the New York Film Festival this week.

She herself need some "hamburger help," she admitted. She had to stuff her pants with socks.

The role won her the Venice Film Festival Best Actress award. *Reuters*

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OVERALL CHANNEL RATINGS & SHARES
Combined areas of Mega Manila, Cebu, Iloilo and Davao
PEOPLE among TV Households TOTAL DAY (6am-12mn)

AGB Nielsen MEGATAM/MCTAM	RATINGS		SHARES	
	August	September	August	September
GMA	9.2%	8.9%	44.2%	46.7%
ABS-CBN	8.1%	7.0%	38.9%	36.5%
Diff (GMA-ABS)	1.1	⬆ 1.9	5.2	⬆ 10.2

Available data until Sept. 21 only; Combined ratings and shares for the 3 areas have been generated using weights according to TV population size

OVERALL CHANNEL RATINGS
Mega Manila Households TOTAL DAY (6am-12mn)

AGB Nielsen*	August 2007	September 2007
GMA	18.6%	18.2%
ABS-CBN	15.8%	13.7%
Diff (GMA-ABS)	2.8	⬆ 4.5

TNS Phils.	August 2007	September 2007
GMA	18.3%	18.2%
ABS-CBN	15.2%	13.4%
Diff (GMA-ABS)	3.1	⬆ 4.8

All Top Weekday Primetime Shows* are on GMA Telebabad

Zaido	34.0	
Pulis Pangkalawakan		
Kokey	*27.8*	
Mars Ravelo's Lastikman	*29.2*	
Mga Mata ni Anghelita	33.3	
Pangarap na Bituin	*25.4*	
MariMar	34.5	
Ysabella	*23.0*	
Impostora	33.7	
Kapamilya Deal or No Deal (ratings covered until Sept. 21 only)	*20.6*	
JuMong (Mon-Thu)	25.8	
Sineserye	*15.8*	
JuMong (Fri)	28.7	
Maalaala Mo Kaya	*17.7*	

All Top Shows by Program Type* are on GMA

Animation Show		Daytime Drama		Comedy/Gag Show	
Knockout	16.4	Sine Novela: *Pati Ba Pintig ng Puso?*	21.0	Bitoy's Funniest Videos	31.4
Princess Sarah	*7.3*	*Margarita*	*14.2*	*John En Shirley*	*18.5*

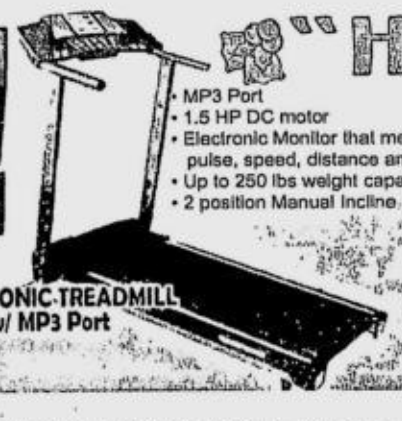
Game Show		General Talk Show		Showbiz Talk Show		General Variety Show	
Tok! Tok! Tok! *Isang Milyon Pasok*	28.0	Mel & Joey	24.6	StarTalk	16.2	Eat Bulaga	21.7
1 vs 100	*20.7*	*Sharon*	*14.6*	*The Buzz*	*14.1*	*Wowowee*	*18.0*

Musical/Variety Show		Newscast		Public Affairs / Feature / Informational Magazine Show		Public Affairs Docu / Investigative Show	
SOP	16.4	24 Oras	31.4	Kapuso Mo, *Jessica Soho*	30.7	Imbestigador	25,8
ASAP 07	*13.4*	*TV Patrol World (Mon-Fri)*	*24.9*	*Rated K Handa Na Ba Kayo?*	*20.5*	*XXX*	*17.6*

*SOURCE: AGB Nielsen (Arianna)
September 2007 (Sept. 30 data based on overnight ratings)

Makaaasa po kayong patuloy kaming maghahandog ng mga programang inyong kagigiliwan, tututukan at aabangan.

WOW!!



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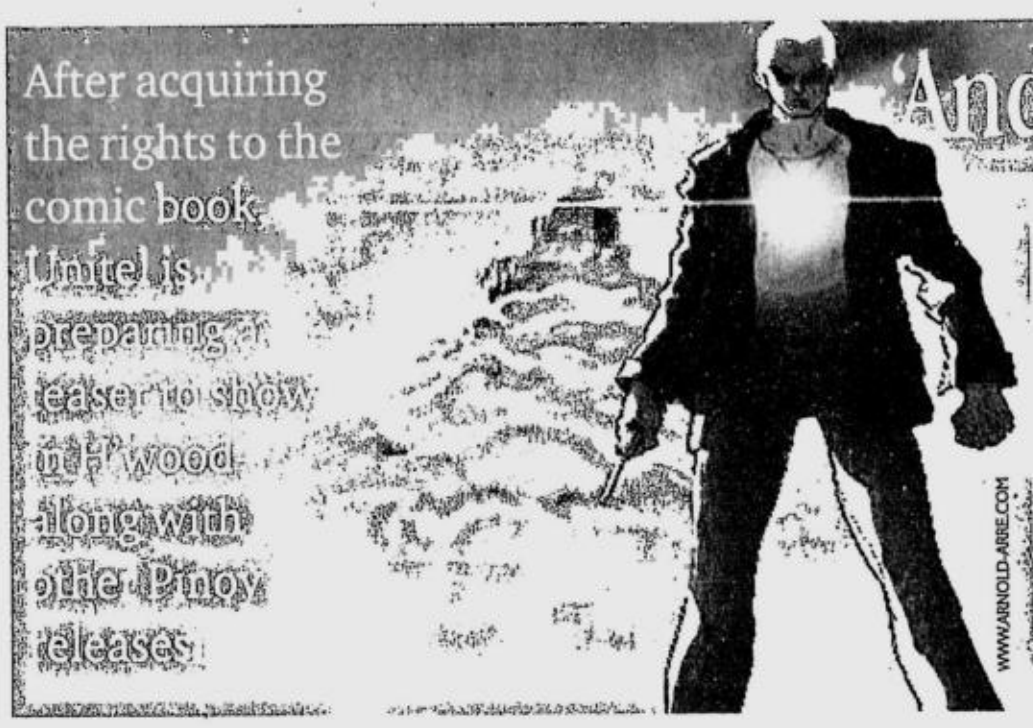
'Andong Agimat' to the US film mart



By Bayani San Diego Jr.

UNITEL HEAD TONY GLORIA HAS a new baby.

"This is my pet project," he says of "Ang Mundo ni Andong Agimat," a popular graphic novel by prize-winning author/illustrator Arnold Arre.

Gloria has acquired the rights to "Andong," which he plans to produce into either a feature film or a TV series. Or both.

"It can start as a feature film and we can later turn it into a TV series," he says.

For the role of Andong, Gloria is eyeing Robin Padilla.

"He's not your typical hero. Andong's a

ANDONG/ G4

'Smellovision' is back

BOSTON—MEGAN DICKERson always loved the rich colors and melodic scores of the film "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory." But she also longed to experience the sweet scents of chocolate.

A self-proclaimed multi-sensory artist, Dickerson is now trying to revive "Smellovision." She's staged outdoor showings of "Willy Wonka" and used oscillating fans and artificially scented oils to distribute aromas of blueberry pie and banana taffy during the film. With help from local art houses and the Boston Children's Museum, she plans to bring other films for sniffing to theaters.

CHEER FACTOR

Smellovision never quite caught on, though it dates back to the late 1950s, when a signal from a "smell track" on the film activated a tubing system to transmit odors to each seat. Aroma-Ra-

'SMELLOVISION'/ G3

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1 NO RESERVATION • THX
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

3 EVENING
11:55 2:30 5:05 7:40 10:00

4 WEDDING DAZE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

5 DECEMBER BOYS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

7 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

8 indieSine: TUKSO
1:45 3:30 5:15 7:00 8:45

9 KNOCKED UP
Sneak Preview

10 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

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ERMITA

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 KNOCKED UP
Sneak Preview

5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

3 DECEMBER BOYS
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

6 WEDDING DAZE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

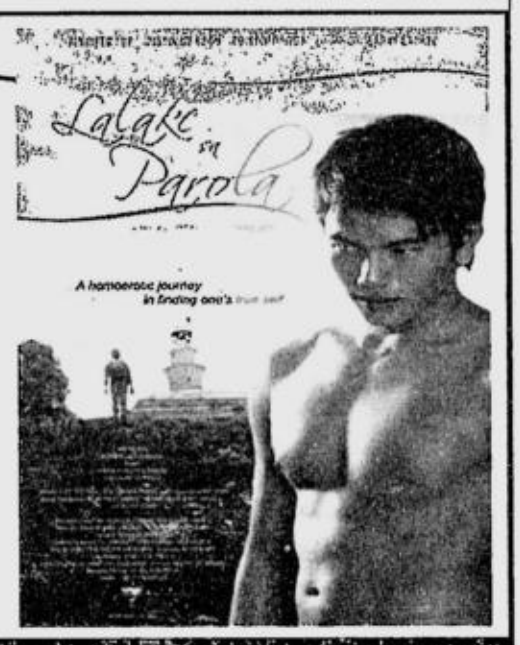
4 NO RESERVATION
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

7 ANG LALAKE sa PAROLA
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

exclusive screening
at Robinsons Movieworld
ERMITA

Starring:
Harry Laurel, Justin de Leon, Jennifer Lee, Sheree and Allan Paule

According to folklore, the fairy of the lighthouse shows herself every full moon to the man her heart desires When this man succumbs to the fairy's charms and makes love to her, he will never long for any other woman Woven into this legend is the story of Mateo (Harry Laurel), a lighthouse caretaker Jerome (Justin de Leon), a gay man from the city finds himself deeply attracted to this simple yet seductive man upon meeting him Soon, Mateo finds himself entering a subtle homoerotic journey with his newfound friend, while Suzet (Jennifer Lee), his girlfriend, continues to struggle for his love and attention Will Mateo bravely cross the thin line between being straight and being gay in the midst of his conservative rural community?



NOW SHOWING
MTRCB Rating: R18

GRADED B by the Cinema Evaluation Board

METRO EAST

1 WEDDING DAZE
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

2 NO RESERVATION
1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00

3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & ;ARRY
1:00 3:35 6:15 9:00

4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

5 ROGUE ASSASSIN
1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

6 KNOCKED UP
Sneak Preview

7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

8 SHOOT 'EM UP
1:10 3:00 4:50 6:40 8:30

NOVALICHES

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 NO RESERVATION
3 KNOCKED UP Sneak Preview
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

PIONEER

1 WEDDING DAZE
1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30

2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
12:50 3:15 5:40 8:05

3 KNOCKED UP Sneak Preview

4 DECEMBER BOYS
1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40

STA. ROSA

1 THE HOST
2 SKINWALKERS
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 PLANET TERROR

LIPA

1 NANCY DREW
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 BRATZ
4 SHOOT 'EM UP

DASMARIÑAS

1 HAIRSPRAY
2 THE HOST
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

IMUS

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 BRATZ
3 SHOOT 'EM UP
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 KNOCKED UP Sneak Preview

ANGELES

1 THE HOST
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 BRATZ
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

TARLAC

1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 DON'T LOOK BACK
3 SHOOT 'EM UP

STARMILLS

1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 BRATZ
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 THE HOST

BACOLOD

1 THE LAST LEGION
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 THE BRAVE ONE
5 STOMP the YARD
6 DISTURBIA

ILOILO

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 NANCY DREW
5 BRATZ
6 DAGYANG

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 NO RESERVATIONS
MTRCB. GP
1:15, 3:45

2 WEDDING DAZE
MTRCB. R-13
2:15, 4:35, 6:55, 9:15

3 KNOCKED UP
MTRCB R-18

4 DECEMBER BOYS
MTRCB PG-13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
EVENING (PG-13) 2:00, 10:00pm / RESIDENT EVIL - 3 (R-13) 5:10, 7:35

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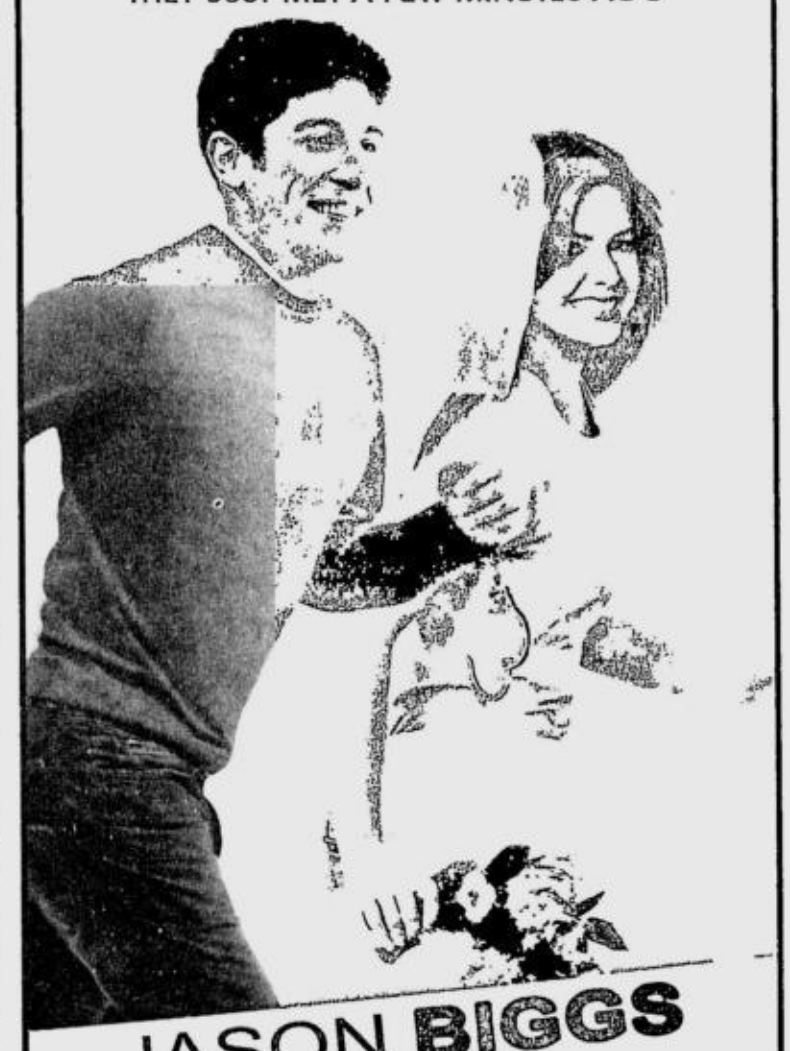
NOW SHOWING

KATIE AND ANDERSON ARE GETTING MARRIED...
THEY JUST MET A FEW MINUTES AGO



JASON BIGGS
ISLA FISHER

WEDDING DAZE

'Smellovision' is back

From page G1

ma, a similar application, piped odors into the theater through the ventilator system.

In the 1980s, Odorama made a stale debut with scratch-and-sniff cards, which also briefly made their way into living rooms. Last year, two movie theaters in Japan offered aroma wafts for back-row seats during the Hollywood adventure film "The New World."

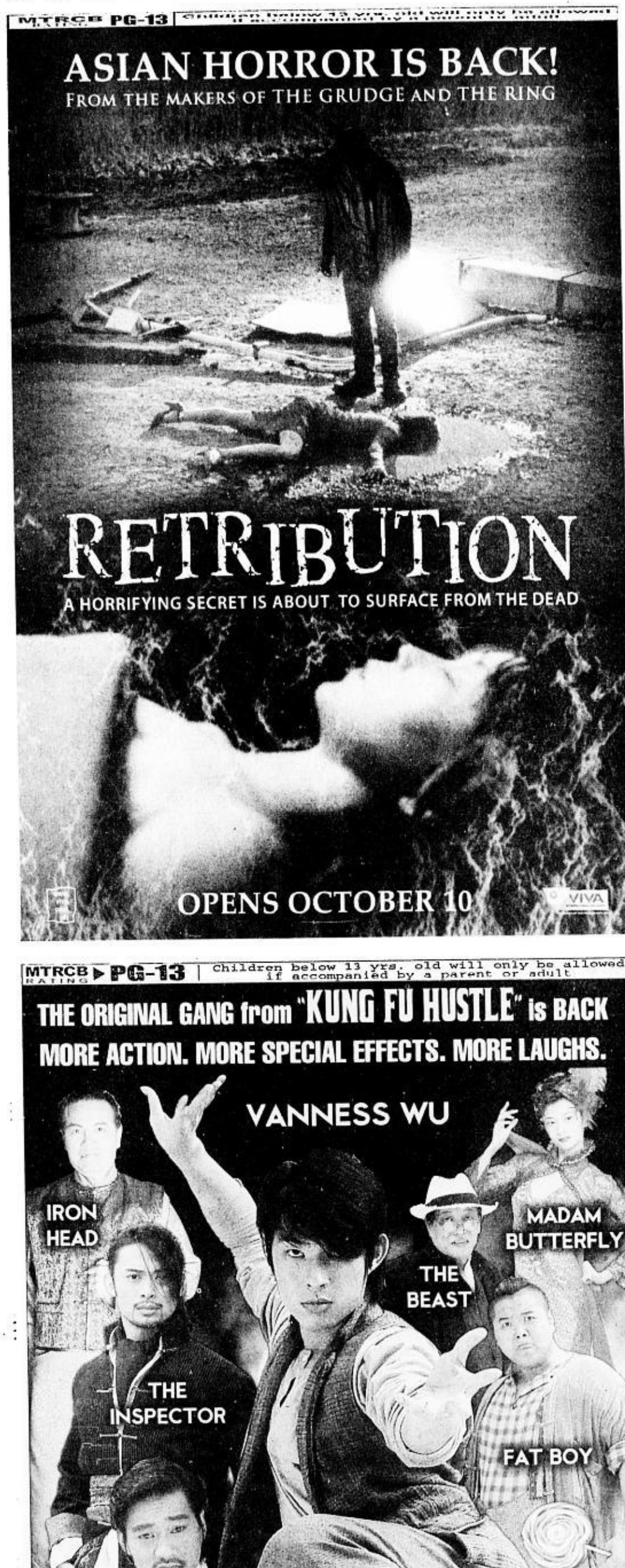
Last March, Trisenx Holdings Inc. started a website where, for $17.95 a month, users can sniff out "scent-enabled content" that includes movies, music videos and news.

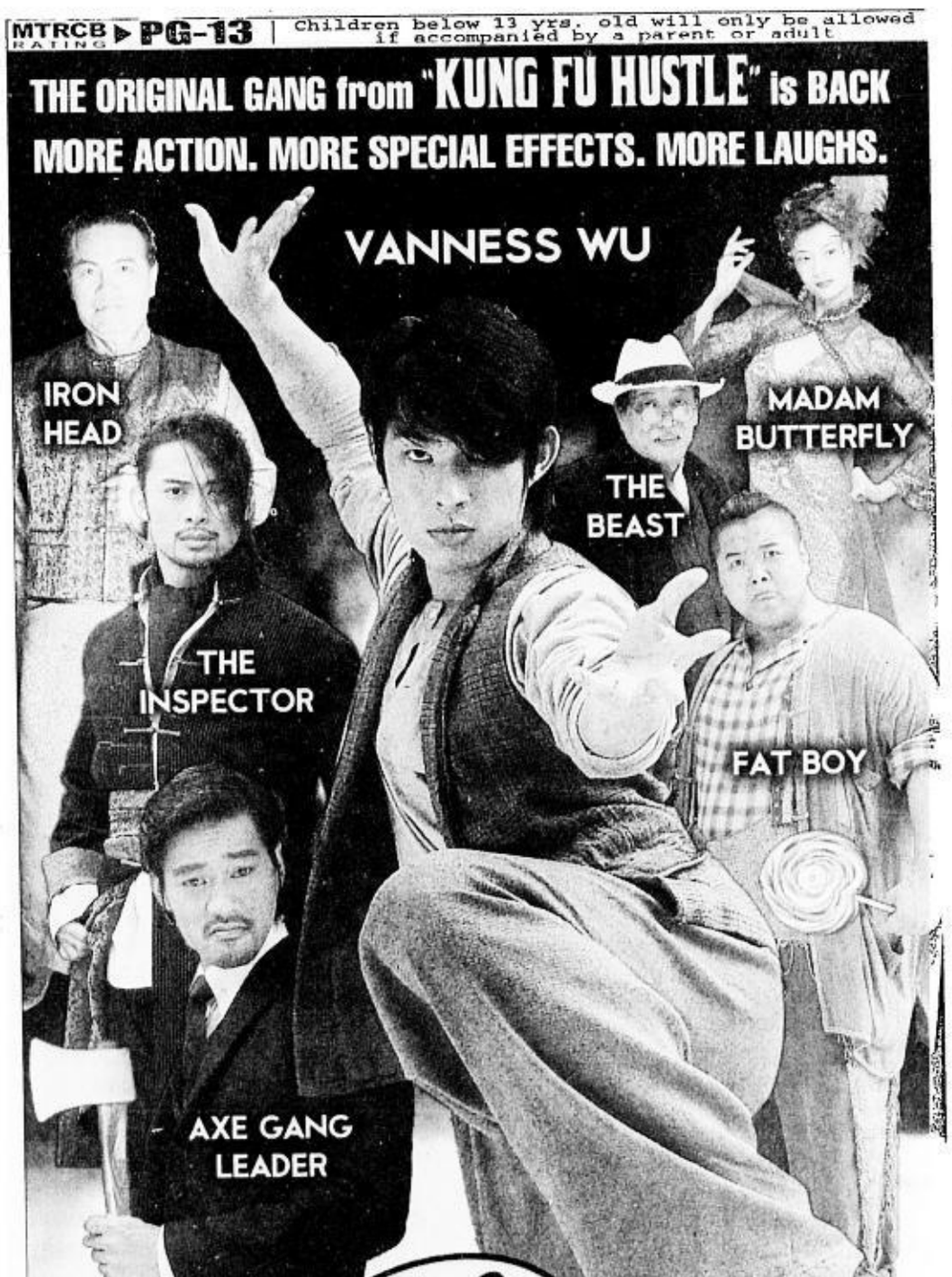
Equipment for Dickerson's Smellovision projects is donated by the Coolidge Corner Theater and the Brattle Theater, both independent Boston area art-house cinemas.

She hopes to organize a Smellovision film festival, and plans to work with movies like 1960's film "Scent of Mystery" and John Waters' "Polyester" (1981)—movies that "make no sense without the smells," she said.

Indoor Smellovision can pose problems with separating smells over the course of the show, according to Terry Molnar, executive director of the Sense of Smell Institute.

"I'm sure there's better technology out there now that could refresh the air in a theater, or could evacuate the air in a theater, or could evacuate the air in the room before the next comes in," Molnar said. *AP*





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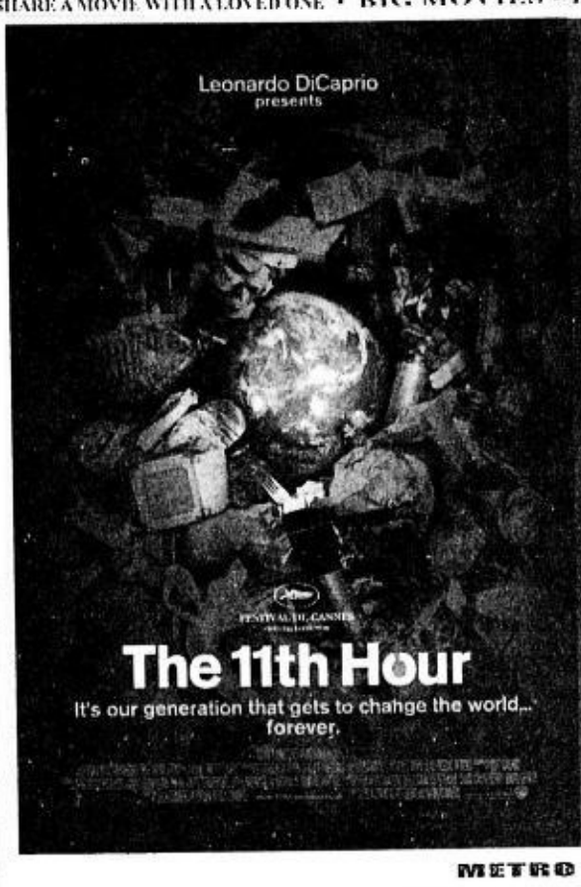

join forces in this environmental campaign

The 11th Hour

THE 11TH HOUR describes the last moment when change is possible. The film explores how humanity has arrived at this moment: how we live, how we impact the Earth's ecosystems, and what we can do to change our course. Also, the film features dialogues with experts from all over the world, in addition to over 50 leading scientists, thinkers and leaders who present the facts and discuss the most important issues that face our planet.

Narrated and produced by Leonardo DiCaprio
Written and directed by Leila Conners Petersen and Nadia Conners

Screening Schedules:
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October 17 (Wednesday) at Mall of Asia
October 24 (Wednesday) at Megamall
October 31 (Wednesday) at Manila
November 7 (Wednesday) at Sta. Mesa

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4:00 AM

1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 DECEMBER BOYS/THE BRAVE ONE
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 WEDDING DAZE
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

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SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 WEDDING DAZE
2 EVENING
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 RESIDENT EVIL
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 RESIDENT EVIL
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
8 WEDDING DAZE
9 DECEMBER BOYS
10 1408
11 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12 RUSH HOUR 3

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 1408
5 WEDDING DAZE
6 DECEMBER BOYS
7 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
8 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
9 ROGUE ASSASSIN
10 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
11 THE BRAVE ONE
12 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 UNDERDOG
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 A LOVE STORY
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 THE BRAVE ONE
6 SHOOT EM' UP
7 RESIDENT EVIL
8 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
9 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
10 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
11 WEDDING DAZE
12 1408

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 NO RESERVATION
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 UNDERDOG
7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
8 1408
9 SHOOT EM' UP
10 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
5 NO RESERVATION
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 NO RESERVATION
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 WEDDING DAZE
6 DECEMBER BOYS
7 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
8 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
9 SHOOT EM' UP

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 NO RESERVATION
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 I NOW PRONOUN
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 NO RESERVATION
6 RESIDENT EVIL
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
8 DISTURBIA
9 1408
10 RUSH HOUR 3
11 UNDERDOG
12 SHOOT EM' UP

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 DON'T LOOK BACK
4 THE HOST

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 NO RESERVATION
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 THE HOST

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 NO RESERVATION
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 WEDDING DAZE
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 NO RESERVATIONS
5 DAYWATCH
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
8 RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
4 SKINWALKERS
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 THE LAST LEGION

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 BRATZ
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 NANCY DREW
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 SKINWALKERS
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 BRATZ
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 BRATZ
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 SHOOT EM' UP
4 NANCY DREW

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 ZOMBIES

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 BRATZ

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 SKINWALKERS
2 BLIND DATING
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 SINKING OF JAPAN
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
6 THE BRAVE ONE

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 HAIRSPRAY
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 BRATZ
2 NANCY DREW
3 SKINWALKERS
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 RESERVED
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
7 RESERVED
8 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 SINKING OF JAPAN
3 DAYWATCH
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
6 THE BRAVE ONE
7 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
9 RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 THE LAST LEGION
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

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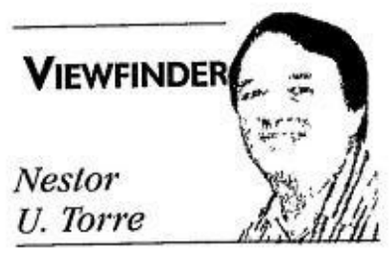
*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS, AT SM CINEMA

The action film is dead—or is it?



VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

A DECADE AGO, IT LOOKED LIKE action stars could do no wrong. Their slam-bang starrers were making loads of money for their producers, and the stars themselves were living high-off the fat of the lands. They were making millions of pesos per film, plus additional millions as line producers of those movies. They wielded immense power:

They could choose their directors, scriptwriters and co-stars, tell everybody what to do, drink on the set, sport a beer belly, engage in kissing scenes with nymphets young enough to be their granddaughters!

They even parlayed their popularity into political gold by successfully running for senator, etc.

Only 10 years later, the local film landscape is very different, indeed. The action movie is practically dead, erstwhile action superstars are jobless or have become generally trying-hard comedians on TV, and male film fans have shifted their allegiance to Hollywood action blockbusters.

What happened? Movie fans got tired of the predictable, improbable action movies being churned out by smug stars and producers. Ticket prices shot up, prompting viewers to be much more selective in the films they chose to view. Tough times further reduced the buying power of the entertainment peso.

Hollywood blockbusters' digital effects and stupendous budgets upstaged most anything local production companies could muster. And many action superstars got too fat and too old to be taken seriously by their previously loyal supporters.

It was an incredible reversal of fortune, because the action film format was a "sure" thing on local screens for many decades (since the 1960s, in fact).

The "death" of the local action film is one of the most shocking developments on the local movie scene, and proof positive that even ultra-patient and forgiving viewers can reach the end of their tether and teach their former "idols" a lesson that they can never forget.

Once in a rare while, action movies are still being made, but most of them fail to excite viewers as much as they used to. The exceptions are the big blockbusters shown in the year-end Metro film fest, but many of them aren't really actioners, but fantasy-adventure flicks with a lot of expensive special effects going for them.

So, is there any hope for the local action films? Where are the younger action stars who can help revive the film type? Can the still active likes of **Robin Padilla** and **Ronnie Ricketts** come up with new starrers that will turn out to be unexpected hits?

The jury's still out on that one, but we hope that the "new" Filipino action movie will soon make a successful comeback. For that to happen, however, our film people should learn from the debacles of the past, become truly original and creative, and stop taking local viewers for granted.

The Filipino actioner deserves to be revived because it used to be such an important aspect of the local filmmaking and film-viewing experience. In fact, quite a number of Filipino film classics are of the action-drama variety: "Hanggang sa Dulo ng Daigdig," "Mga Tigreng Taga-Bukid," "El Vibora," "Geron Busabos, Ang Batang Quiapo," "Ang Panday," "Matimbang ang Dugo sa Tubig," "Ransom," "Walls of Hell," "Manila, Open City," "Santiago," "Ang Padrino," "Tatlong Hari," etc.

One good film deserves another, so the local actioner shouldn't be allowed to self-destruct due to its own blithe neglect. Besides, the film type should be honored for producing some of the most popular and/or iconic stars, whose influence went beyond entertainment and also impacted on politics and on the very warp and woof of Philippine life: **Fernando Poe Jr., Joseph Estrada, Ramon Revilla, Bong Revilla, Lito Lapid,** etc.!

'Andong Agimat' to the US film mart

From page G1

loner and an ex-convict," he explains.

Unitel is preparing an audio-visual presentation on "Andong," which Gloria will screen at the American Film Market, running from Oct. 31 to Nov. 7 in Santa Monica, California.

It's Unitel's fourth time in the US film mart. "We scanned and colorized the storyboards. We edited and set the footage to music. We also gave it a 3-D title," he says.

He hopes to attract investors—to finance or to co-produce—with the "Andong" teaser.

Gloria admits that producing "Andong" is expensive.

"You can't do it with P20 million. If I had P50 million that would be ideal. But I can make it with P30 million to P35 million," he says.

Feedback from the film mart will decide whether "Andong" will be a film or a TV series.

Gloria is bullish about its prospects abroad. "It's different. Very Asian."

Which was what attracted Gloria to the graphic novel.

"I wanted an original Pinoy hero."

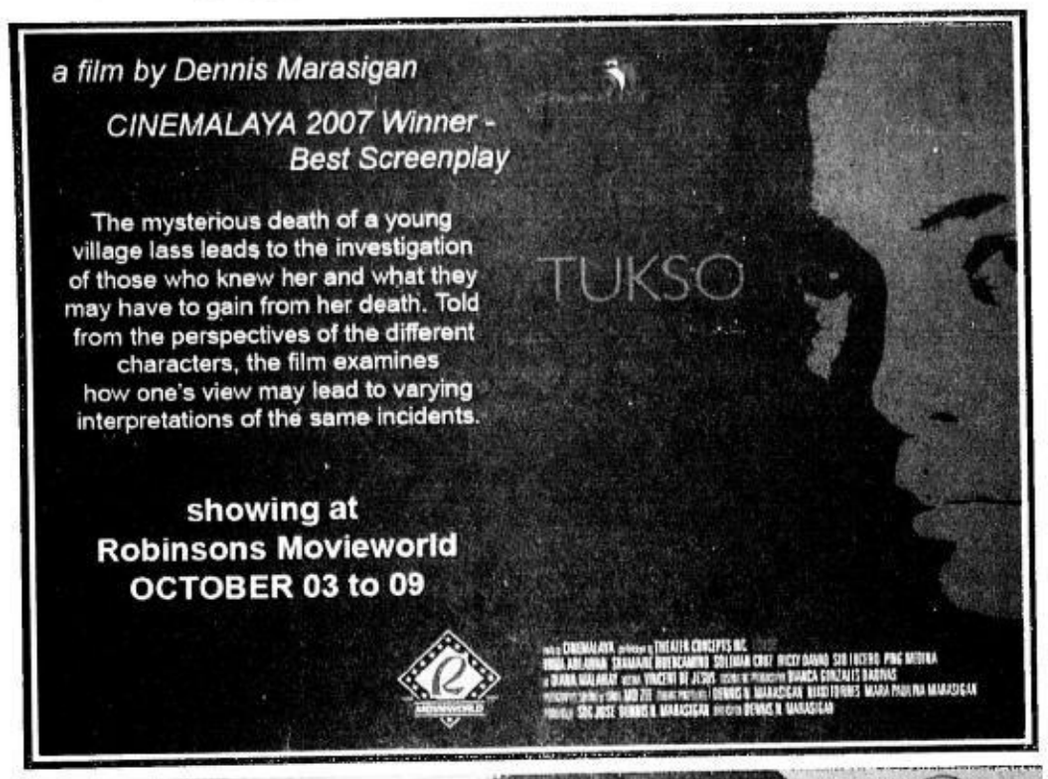
It also combines the mythical with the historical, he says. "In the story, Maria Makiling is in love with a *Katipunero* (revolutionary). I am thinking of shooting in Old Manila — Quiapo, Binondo and Intramuros."

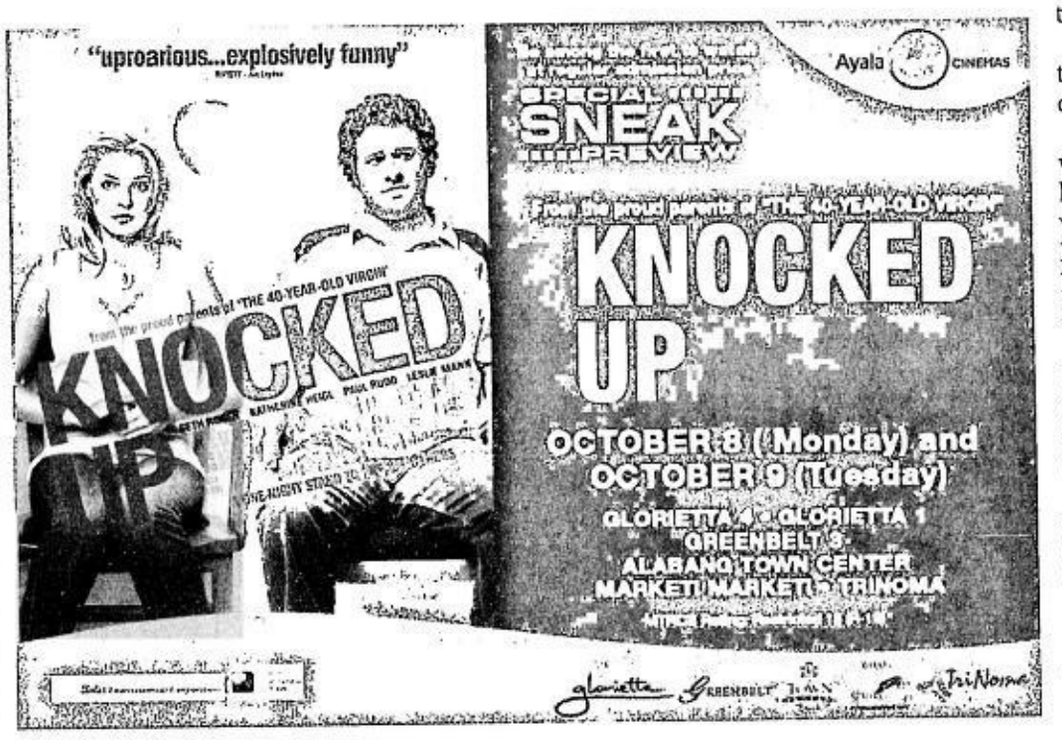
Gloria plans to use Unitel's latest Sony HR 444 high-definition camera in shooting "Andong." "It has the highest resolution. HD cameras were used in Hollywood movies like 'Superman Returns' and 'Zodiac.'"

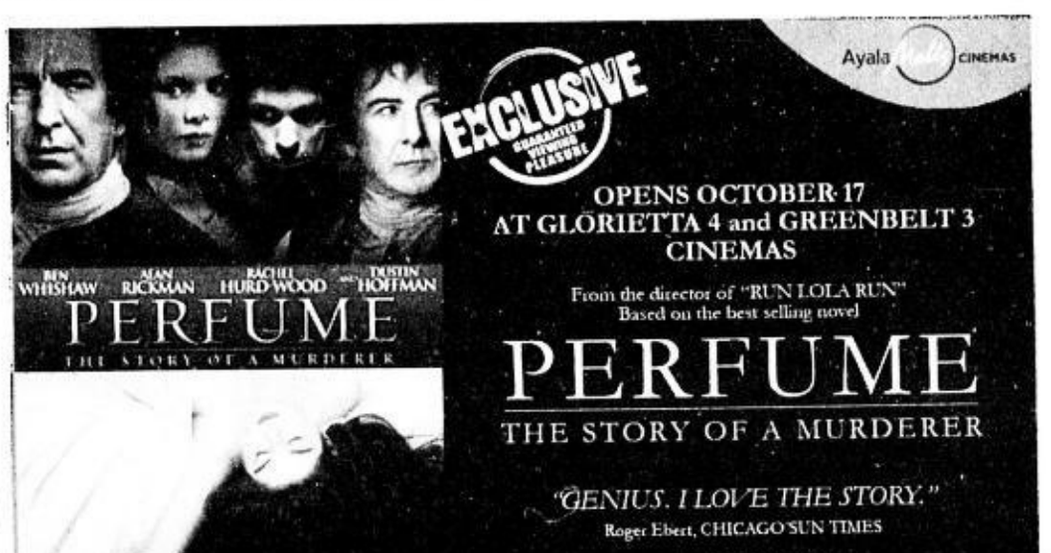
He envisions "Andong" as a "showcase" of the capabilities of Unitel's post-production arm, Optima.

"Optima has the latest computer software for an effects-laden film like 'Andong,'" he says.

Unitel is also bringing to the film mart its finished films—Ato Bautista's "Blackout" and Pablo Biglang-Awa and Veronica Velasco's "Inang Yaya." Also, three other indie movies—Sockie Fernandez's "Gulong," Jay Abello's "Ligaw Liham" and Neal "Buboy" Tan's "Ataul for Rent."







A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

*** "Dio! Die. Evil, Dio!" Kikomachinekomix blg 3, lumabas na!! yehey! RakenRoll .D ***

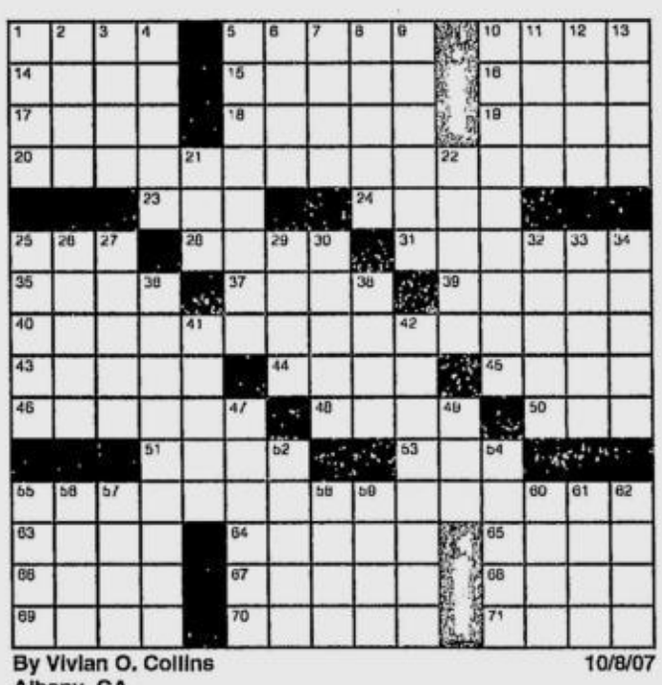
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 "Pirates of the Caribbean" star
5 Port of Israel
10 Saab model
14 Slurpee alternative
15 Rocker John
16 Gush forth
17 "Maverick" brother
18 Highlands landowner
19 __ qua non
20 Easter events
23 Here in France
24 Tres y tres
25 Pub. submissions
28 Dismantle
31 Cunning
35 Recorded proceedings
37 Fork-tailed flier
39 Country singer Steve
40 Beethoven title
43 "Fear of Fifty" author Jong
44 Bristle
45 Chance to play
46 Electronics whiz
48 Hard to find
50 German film, "__ Boot"
51 Heraldic border
53 Schedule abbr.
55 Old Glory
63 Part of a hand
64 Painter Uccello
65 Evans or Earnhardt
66 Perry's creator
67 Scrawny one
68 Prey
69 James of "Elf"
70 Former forms of words
71 Love god

DOWN
1 Claim to a share
2 Linen hue
3 Hammerhead part
4 Dish in a lab
5 Scandinavian capital
6 Winglike parts
7 Addiction: suff.
8 Golfers' shouts
9 __ della Robbia
10 Helper
11 Big-budget film
12 Auberjonois of "Benson"
13 Has a balance due
21 Hosp. section
22 Small songbird
25 "The Cryptogram" playwright
26 Make a basket
27 Follower of Zeno
29 Lodgings in Liverpool
30 Questionnaire option
32 Intentional deception
33 To the extreme
34 Is inclined
36 Rather and Brokaw, e.g.
38 Kett of comics
41 Hideaways
42 __ Springs, NY
47 Go by
49 Drop a fly, e.g.
52 Make law
54 Narrow crest
55 Detailed design, briefly
56 Olympian Lipinski
57 Actress Nazimova
58 Hunky-__
59 Criticize harshly
60 Talk-show pioneer
61 Ticklish toy
62 Goes out with



By Vivian O. Collins
Albany, GA

10/8/07

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	T	A	D	O	R		A	S	I	A	T	I	C
R	I	O	L	O	B	O		C	A	N	S	E	C	O
I	R	E	L	E	S	S		T	R	I	P	L	E	X
					C	A	E	S	A	R				
C	A	T	A	P	U	L	T		L	O	V	I	N	G
O	R	A	T	O	R	I	O		E	N	A	M	O	R
N	I	N	E	T	E	E	N		E	S	T	A	T	E
T	A	D									G	I	N	
O	D	E	N	S	E		B	A	S	I	L	I	C	A
U	N	M	O	W	N		U	N	I	R	O	N	E	D
R	E	S	T	E	D		M	I	L	A	N	E	S	E
			E	L	A	P	S	E						
F	O	R	E	T	O	P		E	N	D	G	A	M	E
A	N	I	L	I	N	E		E	C	U	A	D	O	R
D	O	G	L	E	G	S		D	E	E	P	S	E	A

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10/8/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're extremely capable, and you work hard for what you want. However, life is a romantic adventure to you. You believe in having fun. Nevertheless, you're loyal to family and have excellent money savvy. You have a great imagination. You're also very aware of your roots. This year you might wrap up something you've been involved with for about nine years.

Birthdate of: Matt Damon, actor; Emily Procter, actress; Sigourney Weaver, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Now is the time to tackle big projects at home. You're willing to work very hard at something today, because you want results!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Turn your attention to any job that requires attention to detail. Your powers of concentration are excellent today. You want to do your best in whatever you attempt.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're definitely willing to work very hard to earn money today. Ironically, you'll work just as hard to spend it. You want better control over your possessions.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Today you're willing to work patiently for your goals. What you do today is geared for tomorrow. You're future-oriented now and content with modest results today.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're doing some quiet planning, and it's all very private. You're not sure what is about to hatch—but you do know that it's incubating!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Hard work with groups or in tandem with others can accomplish a lot today. Put your shoulder to the wheel. Join the gang. Many hands make light work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're extremely determined to achieve something at work or to impress someone somehow today. You're going to give it everything you've got. And you're prepared.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Today you have the energy to do schoolwork or finish something related to publishing, the media, medicine and the law. Any kind of study or learning will go well because you have patience and perseverance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): In disputes with others about shared property, you will not compromise today. You've worked hard to arrive where you are, and you intend to protect your interests.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Disputes with partners can be resolved with patience and perseverance today. You're ready to talk things over. You feel very reasonable. You want things to work better in the future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You can work extremely hard today. Your ability to endure is amazing! Tackle jobs that you've been avoiding because you'll finish them in no time flat.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Work related to sports or to the care of children will go well today. Nothing is too much bother. You have the energy and determination to get the job done.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

		8		5				
	6		9		4	3	8	
	7				2			9
	2	4	1		5		6	
5								1
	1		6		9	2	3	
4			7				1	
	8	1	4		3		7	
				8		6		

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Difficulty Level ★ 10/08

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	9	6	7	5	2	8	3	4
8	4	2	3	9	6	7	1	5
5	7	3	8	4	1	9	6	2
6	5	8	4	3	9	2	7	1
4	1	7	6	2	8	5	9	3
3	2	9	1	7	5	4	8	6
2	3	4	9	6	7	1	5	8
9	8	5	2	1	3	6	4	7
7	6	1	5	8	4	3	2	9

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 10/07

ENTERTAINMENT

Workshops for wannabes

By Pocholo Concepcion

MIKE Alba (back) conducts note-reading session.

JOEY "PEPE" SMITH HAS been living in Baguio for the past two years. He knows his way around, and claims to have seen the place where snatchers and pickpockets unload their loot after fleeing from their victims on Session Road and the public market. He says he felt paranoid and wouldn't set foot there again.

But today, Smith is at ease, strumming a steel guitar and visibly happy to join some of the country's most popular and hard-working musicians at Hotel Elizabeth on J. Felipe and Gibraltar Streets, where a three-day music camp dubbed "Musikhero" is in progress.

* * *

JB Music, the instruments shop, organized the event. Earlier, it held auditions for budding musicians at Trinoma in Quezon City, and over 400 enthusiasts showed up. The number was trimmed down to 75—guitarists, bassists and drummers in equal numbers—all of whom were brought to Baguio for the free workshops.

Mike Alba, a prodigy who, at 10 years old, was playing horns and drums with his musical clan in Davao, and who joined Martin Nievera's band at 16, helped design a curriculum for the camp.

Day 1 began with a "sight-reading" class, in which all participants were taught how to read notes quickly. Francis Reyes of The Dawn discussed guitar chord formulation and progression; Rommel de la Cruz, former band mate of Barbie Almalbis and now with Freestyle, shared bass style studies and theories; Mally Paraguya, erstwhile bassist of P.O.T. and now with Viva Records, taught a class called Groove 101; and Alba himself conducted a crash course on Afro-Cuban drum rhythms.

Later in the evening, a "system class" featured all members of The Dawn sharing their experiences as a band and playing a few number afterwards.

Day 2 had Alba calling all participants to jam onstage in groups of threes, testing their skills on note reading while playing.

Veteran session player Jun Regalado presided over funk, R&B and pop drumming lessons; Louie Talan, formerly of Razorback and now with Pinikipikan and Spy, handled "Out-of-the-Box Bass Guitar Playing"; and guitar hero Jun Lopito, who was assigned to teach "The Art of the Blues," discarded formalities and theories and proceeded to call each participant to jam with him on blues classics by the likes of B.B. King, Eric Clapton and the Allmann Brothers Band.

SHOWING 'em how, from left, Rommel de la Cruz, Chickoy Pura and Jun Lupito

JERICHO Fernando (center) of JB Music, with most promising Musikhero students, from left, Otep Concepcion, Julius Truqueña, Burn Cuevas, Mike Bewer and Edward Reformina

> 'Pupunta ko sa Baguio upang magpatamg ng ulo…'—'Mamasyal sa Pilipinas' (Mike Hanopol/ Joey Smith)

Jams and more

Late afternoon had Ernie Severino of Side A speaking about song interpretation and composing drum parts. Mike Elgar of Rivermaya demonstrated left-hand techniques on the guitar; and Buddy Zabala of The Dawn discussed creating bass lines.

At nightfall, a class on songwriting led by Pepe and Chickoy Pura of The Jerks was cut short with another jam, the better to illustrate the beauty and power of "Beep Beep" and other Pinoy rock gems.

Day 3 was spent with more jams by all participants and mentors. Certificates were presented and four promising musicians were picked to be guests at the London International Music Festival in April 2008.

Throughout the classes, emphasis was on developing a sense of rhythm and becoming a team player. At one point during the sight-reading session led by drummers, Reyes made a lasting comment:

"I'd like to think of the guitar as an extension of the drum beat. You should be playing with the drums, not on top ... The reality, is you'll play rhythm guitar 90 percent of the time in most songs. The bottom line is, *kung ano ang groove ng* drummer, *dapat ganun din kayo mag-isip.* Remember, songs are dependent on us playing rhythm."

Most participants cited the value of note reading which they learned from Alba. Julius Truqueña, 17, whose plan to become an OFW musician was temporarily shelved, said: *"Napakalaking tulong [nito], lalo na sa disiplina ng pagbabasa ng nota nang mabilisan.* I will apply everything I learned through constant practice."

The Beatles never bothered to read notes, but Alba emphasized its importance: *"Dalawa lang 'yan.* Either you're a genius ... or you start from scratch. And the fastest way to learn music is by reading notes."

Feel and learn

De la Cruz noted out how a musician's "feel" should not conflict with acquiring technical skills: "Given *na yung bawa't isa may* feel *eh.* At the same time, *binibigyan mo sila ng baon, halimbawa* in the future *magkaro'n sila ng* opportunity to be a working musician, *may* knowledge *na sila.* A little knowledge won't hurt. *May sinasabi kasi na mawawala 'yung* feel *pag nagkaron ka ng* academic knowledge. *Hindi ako naniniwala du'n."*

Lopito, a folk singer at 17 when Smith recruited him to play electric guitar in a gig at the Araneta Coliseum, eschewed formalities. "I don't know how to teach these guys except to jam with them *para derecho na talaga,*" he said. "Let's see where they are."

Paramour of married action star gives birth

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

COULD IT BE TRUE THAT beauty queen **Josephine Canonizado** has given birth and the baby boy had a christening party at the Manila Polo Club?

Josephine has long been pinpointed as the paramour of a married action star. But the actor has managed to charm his way out of unwelcome reports, and gets to dodge the issue every time he is asked about her.

How long will he go on downplaying this? What a player indeed!

Clean slate

Nora Aunor was so much a part of my childhood since she and my mom go a long way back. I witnessed their countless escapades together.

One incident that stands out in my memory was when La Aunor pretended she had no voice because she was not comfy being interviewed by colegialas. My Mom was the one who faced the girls instead.

Now that the superstar has been acquitted of drug charges in the US, her slate is wiped clean. Not everybody is given a second chance so she'd better not blow it.

"*May* magic *yata ang Nanay namin* because no matter how heavy her problems are, she bounces right back," her daughters **Lotlot** and **Matet** say.

The siblings have not spoken to Mama Guy but they are dying to reunite with her. Matet says she'd rather let her mom stay in the US because she feels her mom is more at peace there.

Lot says she'll support the superstar's decision.

I think it's time La Aunor made a movie about her colorful life. That would be one super epic with an array of leading men!

No rush

Ruffa Mae Quinto is doubly excited for her movie with Viva Films "Apat Dapat" (showing Oct. 10) because she's one of the lead stars as well as the co-producer. Just watching the trailer already makes me wanna die laughing.

That's expected when four of local cinema's top comediennes (Ruffa Mae, **Polkwang, Eugene Domingo** and **Candy Pangilinan**) are in one movie. Peachy (Ruffa Mae's pet name) has never had it so good career-wise although her love life is zero at the moment.

Is she happier now that she's loveless but "racket-filled"? She sighs. "It would be better if I have inspiration in times like this so I will have someone to share it with. But I'm contented now being single. I can focus more now. Rest *muna* heart *ko.* If I were to have another BF, I hope it would be for keeps. But no rush."

Peachy is at a point in her life where she's in no hurry to get ahead. She just wants to enjoy where she's at.

Paolo's girl

I met **Abigail Cruz**—the GF of **Paolo Bediones**—when she relinquished her crown as Ms. Fort Ilocandia. She was still with her commercial model BF back then. Her mom asked me to help her get into show biz but we lost touch.

The **Claudine Baretto** look-alike is a veteran of beauty pageants. Her biggest win was as second runner-up in Bb. Pilipinas '07. Hopefully, she won't be dethroned as Pao's "queen" but reign in his picky heart forever after.

E-mail wateringholeshangri-la@yahoo.com.

THE CAST of Camera Cafe, back row, from left: Assunta de Rossi, Sherilyn Reyes, Angel Aquino, Noel Colet, Patricia Ismael, Kalila Aguilos, Gerry Montes, Jaime Fabregas. Front row, from left: Christian Vasquez, Tado Jimenez, Jojo Alejar, Monica Llamas, Arnold Reyes, Bearwin Meily.

French producer: Filipinos are the best

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by August de la Cruz

WITHOUT THINKING TWICE, French producer Henri de Lorme asserts that the Filipino cast of the QTV comedy show "Camera Café" tops his list.

De Lorme was co-producer of the five-minute French sitcom which has been spun off in at least 30 countries—including Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Italy, Spain, Greece, Ukraine and Yugoslavia. He is now the franchise holder for Asia.

"I've been to a lot of countries [and] seen the different versions. But, for me, the best is the Pinoy cast," De Lorme tells INQUIRER Entertainment in an exclusive interview. "The Filipinos are even better than the original French cast—who are my friends!"

Filipinos are natural entertainers, explains the French TV exec. "They can do everything: sing, dance, act. It's ingrained in the culture."

Director Mark Meily is all praise as well for his 17-strong ensemble, which includes seasoned performers Jaime Fabregas and Joy Viado, as well as drama actresses Angel Aquino and Assunta de Rossi, the comic tandem of Bearwin Meily and Jojo Alejar and fresh talents Tado Jimenez, Patricia Ismael, LJ Reyes, Arnold Reyes and Monica Llamas.

"Show creator Alain Kappauf and Jean Yves Robin of CALT (overall franchise holder) saw our version and were so pleased with it, they want to co-produce other CALT programs for the Philippines," says Meily.

To think that the Pinoy cast had to go through the wringer while taping the show's first season.

Ismael recalls that it wasn't uncommon for them to memorize 28 scripts and tape 10 episodes a day.

Alejar admits, "Memorization is my waterloo. But Direk Mark was very patient with me." Alejar says that he had to shape up because the script required precision. "We were not allowed to ad-lib because we depended on each other for our cues."

Time limit

"There was a timer on the set. We couldn't go over the time limit (three and a half minutes)," De Rossi points out. "Unlike in other shows, where the punch line sometimes gets lost in the ad libs, our show is more direct to the point. It's quick and funny."

Aquino compares the experience to live theater. Jimenez agrees, saying that a lot of time was spent on "rehearsals."

"We couldn't afford to make a mistake because we'd have to start from the top if we did," says Llamas.

Another challenge, says petite comic Ismael, was the show's one-camera set-up. "There's only one camera angle. Since I'm vertically challenged, sometimes only my *bumbunan* (top of my head) can be seen in the frame. It's because the other actors are so tall!"

Mark Meily and Henri de Lorme

Seriously now. Is the Pinoy audience ready for the bite-size, snack entertainment offered by "Camera Café" (which debuts on QTV on Oct. 15)?

"Today's viewers have a short attention span. Hopefully, Pinoys will give the show a chance," Meily says.

De Lorme is optimistic, insisting that the French and Pinoys have the same quirky sense of humor.

"We have the same spirit," De Lorme says. "The Filipino scriptwriters quickly understood the show's concept. I think the scripts written by the Filipinos are even better than some of the French originals."